

LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE • DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Chinese • Classics • Comparative Literature • English • Film Studies • French
German • Italian • Japanese • Medieval and Early Modern Studies • Nature and Culture
Religious Studies • Russian • Spanish • Undeclared—Humanities • Other Major Options

To study language and literature is to study humanity's long efforts to create and share beauty and individuality; to cope with our world; to express our deepest feelings and cultural identities. In these majors, you'll develop the ability to write and think critically, ask important questions about other cultures, and in doing so comprehend and embrace a world other than your own. Students are encouraged to further expand their knowledge by exploring additional languages outside their major, including Hindi, Urdu, Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Portuguese. Graduates of our languages and literature program have gone on to pursue professions in writing, business, education, medicine, public service, and law.

LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE MAJORS

Chinese

A major in Chinese is the gateway to the language and culture of nearly one-fourth of the world's population. Even if you've had no prior Chinese instruction, with the help of smaller classes and advanced teaching methods, you'll achieve fluency in Mandarin while immersing yourself in China's historical, literary and cultural heritage.

Questions? Contact the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at 622 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4999, chinese.ucdavis.edu.

Classics

Latin and Greek languages and literatures lead students into the worlds of ancient writers, from Homer, Euripides and Plato to Julius Caesar, Vergil and Horace, and into Christian late antiquity. In this rigorous and challenging discipline, classical civilization majors also study ancient history and philosophy, myth and religion, archaeology and art history. Join a close community of students and faculty who share a passion for the ancient world and its after-life in areas ranging from literature and film to politics and architecture.

Questions? Contact the department at 616 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-0835, classics.ucdavis.edu.

Comparative Literature

By studying the works of authors of different cultures and eras, from Aesop's fables to Borges' Labyrinths, we learn to appreciate what all humans share and what differences give rise to our diversity. Comparative literature majors at UC Davis explore a range of genres, styles

and themes in literature from around the world. In small seminar courses, you'll discuss readings with professors and fellow students, enjoying the closeness and engagement typical of a small private college, yet still have the resources of a large public university.

Questions? Contact the department at 522 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-1219, complit.ucdavis.edu.

English

To study English is to encounter some of the world's finest works of literature in their historical, artistic and cultural contexts. The Department of English offers a wide range of courses in British and American literature, in the structure and history of the English language and in expository and creative writing.

Questions? Contact the department at 176 Voorhies Hall, (530) 752-7646, www.english.ucdavis.edu.

Film Studies

Since the emergence of the neighborhood movie house in the early 20th century, film has become one of modern culture's most accessible artistic media. Film impacts how we think about our world, from our ideals of beauty to our norms of social interaction. It provides a language of common ideas and images that has spread throughout the world. Drawing on the expertise of scholars in the humanities, arts and social sciences, film studies majors engage in the creative, cultural and technical aspects of filmmaking.

Questions? Contact the department at 622 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4999, filmstudies.ucdavis.edu.

French

French is spoken in several European countries, Tahiti, parts of Canada, Africa and the Caribbean. The French major cultivates critical thought, a historical perspective and an appreciation for cultural difference. From Rabelais to Rousseau, Christine de Pizan to Marguerite Duras, you'll study French writers and thinkers in close contact with the department's distinguished faculty.

Questions? Contact the department at 522 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-1219, french.ucdavis.edu.

German

The influence of German language and culture reaches far beyond Germany's borders. Bach, Hegel, Goethe and Einstein are only a few of Germany's influential writers, musicians, philosophers and scientists. Beyond learning the German language, the major seeks to cultivate deeper understanding of German society and institutions.

Questions? Contact the department at 622 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4999, german.ucdavis.edu.

Italian

From Michelangelo, DaVinci, Galileo, Machiavelli, Dante and Petrarch to Federico Fellini and Umberto Eco, Italian culture has shaped how we view ourselves and the world. The major explores the people, culture, linguistics, film and literature of Italy. With individual attention from instructors, you'll get to study Italy's historical importance and its contemporary society in depth.

Questions? Contact the department at 522 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-1219, italian.ucdavis.edu.

UC Davis Language Courses

- Arabic
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hebrew
- Hindi/Urdu
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish

Japanese

Japanese civilization extends back more than 1,200 years; its contributions to global culture include art, poetry and the world's first novel. Today Japan is the world's second-largest economy, making vital technological contributions. Majors first build a foundation in the language, then cultivate an understanding of Japanese civilization with courses in literature, history and politics.

Questions? Contact the department at 522 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-1219, japanese.ucdavis.edu.

Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Many think of the period from 300 to 1700 C.E. in Europe and the Middle East as a somewhat dark, brooding time — the result of the Roman Empire's collapse. Yet this period also saw the genesis of social institutions still in existence today: universities, hospitals, parliamentary government, modern legal systems and capitalist economies. You'll examine the distant roots of modern society, tracing the development of art, science, history, literature, philosophy and religion during this fascinating era.

Questions? Contact the department at 176 Voorhies Hall, (530) 752-2257, medieval.ucdavis.edu.

Nature and Culture

UC Davis' unique program in nature and culture provides a rich understanding of the relationships and tensions between human culture, science and the natural world. The major explores the development of Western scientific theories in comparison with non-Western understandings of "how nature works." Courses in the major highlight how gender, ethnicity, class and religion affect our perception of the natural world and our answer to the question: Where do humans fit in nature?

Questions? Contact the program at 176 Voorhies Hall, (530) 752-0830, nac.ucdavis.edu.

Religious Studies

The major in religious studies examines culture in terms of its core values, with opportunities to analyze the traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism,

Christianity, Islam and African religions. The major aims to describe, compare and interpret the beliefs of religions to understand the lands where they emerge and thrive. You'll study how religion has shaped human behavior in matters of family life, ideas of right and wrong, sexual roles and relations and the individual's place in society.

Questions? Contact the program at 622 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4999, religions.ucdavis.edu.

Russian

A major in Russian not only provides instruction and practice of the Russian language, it exposes you to the richness of Russian literature and culture. Writers like Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov and Nabokov; composers Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky; and painters Chagall and Kandinsky are all part of the great Russian tradition. Education abroad and careers in international business and government are open to you with a UC Davis degree in Russian.

Questions? Contact the department at 622 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-4999, russian.ucdavis.edu.

Spanish

Spanish is among the most widely spoken languages in the world today. In the United States, it is the first or second language for millions of people. Knowledge of Spanish gives you access to the rich literature and diverse cultures of Spain, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, California and the Southwest.

Questions? Contact the department at 616 Sproul Hall, (530) 752-0835, spanish.ucdavis.edu.

Undeclared—Humanities

If you'll be entering UC Davis as a freshman and you're undecided on your major, consider the College of Letters and Science's undeclared—humanities option. You'll benefit from professional guidance as you investigate possible majors and develop new personal strengths. Visit the Counseling Center for personal interest assessment testing, or use the Internship and Career Center's computerized career assessment tools to help you find majors that align with your interests.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 200 Social Science & Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0392, advising.ucdavis.edu.

Other Major Options

The College of Letters and Sciences offers an individual major for students who want to forge their own academic path. Students with strong interests in more than one academic discipline may wish to consider a double major. All UC Davis colleges offer academic minors, as well.

The individual major program is designed for the student with multiple interests and educational goals not satisfied within the limits of an already established undergraduate major. The program essentially integrates courses from two or more specialization areas. The major is designed by the student and is subject to approval by faculty advisers and appropriate college committees.

Another approach to individualized academic planning that allows a student to combine two or more interests is the minor program. For most students, the minor either complements the major and/or covers a field of study significantly different from the major. The minor is certified on the student's transcript.

The double major program is still another alternative, but one which leaves even less time for elective courses. The double major requires approval by the appropriate faculty advisers and dean, and students must show that there is a significant difference between the disciplines and requirements of both majors involved. Cross-college majors can be developed with majors in two different colleges.

Questions? Contact an adviser at 200 Social Science & Humanities Bldg., (530) 752-0392, advising.ucdavis.edu.

Want to hear from students and faculty in these majors? Visit admissions.ucdavis.edu/majors for that and more.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK, MYSPACE AND YOUTUBE

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