Humanities Language Learning Program

Cynthia L. Claxton, Director
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/hllp/

Overview

The learning of languages other than English is a crucial component of humanistic inquiry, global literacy, and academic diversity. The mission of the Humanities Language Learning Program (HLLP) is to support the learning and teaching of languages other than English on the UCI campus, provide instruction in languages not associated with undergraduate or graduate degree programs, foster intellectual and pedagogical connections between the fields of applied linguistics and the humanities, and provide local and national leadership in raising the profile and prominence of language learning as part of a university education in a rapidly changing, globally interconnected world.

The following languages are offered through the HLLP: Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and Vietnamese. Students who would like to enroll in a HLLP language class should complete a language background questionnaire. This questionnaire is available on the HLLP Language Placement Information website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/hllp/resources) and should be submitted online. Students with previous exposure to Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Vietnamese may also need to take a placement test. These tests are administered by the UCI Academic Testing Center by appointment. Please contact the Testing Center at 949-824-6207 to schedule a time to take a placement test. Send any questions about placement to HLLP Director Cynthia Claxton (cynthia.claxton@uci.edu).

See Language Other Than English Placement and Progression.

Humanities Language Learning Program Peer-to-Peer Language Mentor Program

The HLLP Peer-to-Peer Language Mentor Program is designed both as a supplement to more formal language learning within the classroom and as a means for students not enrolled in language classes to maintain their language skills. Each language mentor will be paired with one to three mentees. Mentor and mentee(s) will meet for at least one hour each week and will engage in various activities conducted in the target language. These activities may include (but are not limited to) conversations in the target language; watching a film, television show, or news program in the target language; cooking a meal or snack that is typical of the culture of the target language; attending an appropriate cultural event, museum exhibition, or performance; producing a creative work (including dance) that is appropriate to the target culture; presentation of specialized vocabulary by the mentor (e.g., medical vocabulary); listening to music of the target culture; going to an ethnic grocery store or restaurant, etc. All conversation revolving around these activities should be in the target language to the greatest degree possible. Both the mentor and the mentee(s) will keep a journal and will reflect on each week’s meeting and activities. Mentor and mentee(s) will also be required to attend two whole group meetings each quarter, one at the beginning of the quarter and one at the end.

Students must submit an application in order to participate in the program and the applications will be evaluated by the faculty of the Humanities Language Learning Program. Once chosen, mentors and mentees will be instructed to enroll in a 1 unit P/NP class corresponding to their language and level of participation.

Selection Requirements for Mentors (ARABIC 10A, HEBREW 10A, PERSIAN 10A, VIETMSE 10A):

• High-Intermediate to Advanced-level language skills (particularly oral language skills) in target language
• Sophomore to senior standing
• 2.7 (B-) G.P.A.
• Sincere interest in fostering the development of language skills of mentee(s)
• Leadership skills
• Active participation in planning of weekly activities
• Ability to meet with mentee(s) on a weekly basis and to attend whole group meetings

Selection Requirements for Mentees (ARABIC 10B, HEBREW 10B, PERSIAN 10B, VIETMSE 10B):

• Enrollment in an HLLP language is desirable, but not required
• Freshman to senior standing
• Commitment to improving speaking skills in target language
• Active participation in weekly activities
• Ability to meet with mentor on a weekly basis and to attend whole group meetings

Faculty

Soheila Kian, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Persian

Raheela Maniar, M.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Arabic
Miriam Parks, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Lecturer of Hebrew

Tri Chan Tran, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Vietnamese; Vietnamese