MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

In today’s global society, knowledge of languages and cultures is increasingly important in business, industry, and the professions. At Illinois Wesleyan, courses in languages and literatures have become an integral part of several other majors on our campus, including International Business, Diplomatic Studies, Development Studies, Western European Studies, and Russian and Eastern European Studies. In fact, approximately one-third of Illinois Wesleyan language majors are double majors, with second majors such as music, history, business, political science, etc.

At Illinois Wesleyan you may pursue a major in French, German, or Greek and Roman Studies, and a minor in French, Greek and Roman Studies (ancient Greek or Latin), German, Japanese Studies, or Russian Language and Literature, and a 3-semester sequence in Italian or Chinese. Lower-level courses develop awareness of cultural differences and emphasize language skills. Upper level courses deal with more than one of the following: cultural history (including art and intellectual traditions), literature, film, popular culture, and contemporary social/political issues. In addition, the MCLL faculty offer courses in Literature and Culture Studies in English Translation which are designed to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of the literature/culture of non-English speaking countries.

Outside of class you will have the benefit of our exceptionally equipped Language Resource Center. At the Center you can work with self-study computer programs and watch foreign videos with or without subtitles. Illinois Wesleyan also offers a palette of study abroad and travel opportunities, regularly scheduled foreign films, and guest speakers from around the world.

PUTTING YOUR LANGUAGE INTO PRACTICE

Our Language Resource Center provides students with facilities for foreign language computer-based activities as well as traditional language laboratory work. It is equipped with 20 IBM-compatible workstations, 4 iMacs, and 3 video viewing stations. Students may work on their speaking, pronunciation, or comprehension skills using audiocassettes; practice grammar using computer drills; or take advantage of foreign language software that helps build vocabulary or write compositions. Students may increase their cultural competency while working with interactive CD-ROMs and browsing the World Wide Web. The Language Resource Center also functions as a tutoring center that gives students one-on-one help with their foreign language studies. As an advanced language student you will be eligible to work as a paid tutor for the department. Living in an environment where foreign language speakers surround you is also important for learning. Informal groups meet on campus to converse in the chosen language e.g. French (La table française) or German (Stammtisch). May Term travel seminars are also widely available.

Study abroad is an important part of our language programs. You may spend a semester or a year studying in France, Russia, Germany, Austria, Greece or Japan. Travel seminars are also offered to a variety of destinations.

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As a language student at Illinois Wesleyan, you will receive close, personal attention from our faculty, all of whom have extensive experience studying and living abroad. Our faculty are engaged in teaching first and second year language courses, in addition to the upper level courses they teach on literature and culture. The department includes the following members:

➤ **Dr. Marina Balina**, Isaac Funk Professor and Professor of Russian Studies. Her areas of interest include 20th Century Russian literature, Yiddish literature and culture, and Russian visual art. She has written on Russian autobiography, Russian memoir literature, as well as contemporary Russian prose.

➤ **Dr. Christopher Callahan**, Associate Professor of French, is both a linguist and a medievalist. He brings expertise in phonetics, translation, and medieval lyric to the French Civilization and Literature courses. He is the author of articles on medieval music and aspects of performance in medieval lyric and romance as well as of a critical edition of the songs of the 13th century *Trouvère Colin Muset* (forthcoming.)

➤ **Dr. Sonja Fritzsche**, Department Co-Chair and Associate Professor of German and Eastern European Studies. She is author of *Science Fiction Literature in East Germany* (2006). Her primary research interests include East German Literature and Culture, the Fantastic-/Science Fiction, and Studies in Popular Culture. She maintains an active interest in instructional technology as well.

➤ **Dr. Hiroko Furo**, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, is a specialist in sociolinguistics. She is the author of *Turn-taking in English and Japanese, Grammar, Intonation, and Semantics* (Routledge, 2001) and an upcoming book, *Dietary Practice of Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors*. She has also published various articles on cross-cultural communication, language and gender, and discourse analysis.

➤ **Dr. James Matthews**, Associate Professor of French, is active in exploring French travel literature of North America and Africa. He has done work on French classical drama and the francophone literatures of Africa, Canada, and the Caribbean.

➤ **Dr. Julie Prandi**, Professor of German. In addition to German language and literature courses, she also teaches intellectual history and Humanities courses. Her publications reflect her expertise in Goethe and the German classics as well as in interdisciplinary German studies.

➤ **Dr. Scott Sheridan**, Department Co-Chair and Associate Professor of French. His areas of interest include 19th Century French studies, Québécois literature, and applications of language-learning technology.

➤ **Dr. Nancy Sultan**, Professor and Director of Greek and Roman Studies, has published widely in the areas of Hellenic cultural studies, folklore, gender studies, and ethnomusicology. She is the author of *Exile and the Poetics of Loss in Greek Tradition* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999).

### Placement

Students who have taken four or more years of a foreign language and/or have experience living in a country where the chosen language is spoken are encouraged to take an advanced placement exam. In this way you help us greatly with placement and may receive college credits as well. If you have an AP score of 4 or 5, you need not take the placement exam. All incoming students who have studied a year or more of a second language and/or have an AP score of 3 or below should take the IWU placement exam given during Fall Festival.

### Your Professional Future

Many of our students have benefited from internships abroad as undergraduates or competed successfully for scholarships abroad after the BA. Others have gone on to graduate degrees in Area Studies (leading to government work), linguistics, law, psychology, international business, and material science (in connection with Classical archaeology). Our alumni currently hold jobs in international education, high school and college teaching, medicine, business, government service, social work, and publishing. As you can see from that list, our graduates often have double majors or interesting major/minor combinations. A degree in languages and literatures from Illinois Wesleyan is a plus for any resume and can be your introduction to a wide variety of professional opportunities.

### For Further Information

For more information about the academic program and the faculty visit our website at:

http://www2.iwu.edu/academics/departments