



## MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

With 16 faculty members in Modern Languages and Literatures, students enjoy classes and personal contact with their professors. There are numerous opportunities to study abroad and learn about new languages and cultures. We prepare our students for graduate study and/or careers in teaching, diplomacy, international business, international law and translation, among many other fields.

### Curriculum

#### **Majors:**

French

German

Spanish

#### **Interdisciplinary Majors:**

Latin American Studies

Russian Studies

#### **Minors:**

Chinese Studies

French

German

Spanish

Latin American Studies

Russian Studies

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers three different types of majors: language and literature, cultural studies and interdisciplinary majors. The language and literature majors require the completion of several upper-level courses that provide students with an education in the language, literature and civilization of their area of study. In the cultural studies majors, such as Russian Studies, students take courses in history and international studies. The various interdisciplinary majors combine instruction in a specific foreign language with instruction in the history and political development of that region.

### Chinese

Chinese is one of the most commonly spoken languages of the world, and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. After China began its openness and reform in the late 1970s, Chinese

has become increasingly important in the worldwide process of globalization. The Rhodes Chinese Program is dedicated to helping all interested students learn Chinese and gain knowledge of Chinese culture and society. As an interdisciplinary program, it provides a curriculum that teaches Mandarin Chinese from elementary to advanced levels, introduces students to the richness and breadth of Chinese language, history, thought, literature and film and prepares students for a lifelong career or graduate work in China-related fields. Contact Prof. Michelle Mattson ([mattsonm@rhodes.edu](mailto:mattsonm@rhodes.edu)) for more information.

### French

French culture has played a significant role in shaping political, social, intellectual and artistic history. Moreover, the influence of France in today's marketplace suggests a growing need for speakers of French. More than 1,200 French companies have subsidiaries in the United States, employing almost half a million workers. In our global economy, knowledge of French can provide success in careers as diverse as education, law, tourism and international relations (the Red Cross, the European Community and the Olympic Committee have two official languages: English and French). A strong knowledge of French is also a key asset in international business, medical research (only France and the U.S. are currently at the forefront of advanced AIDS research), the field of communication technology and the aerospace industry. Prof. James Vest ([vest@rhodes.edu](mailto:vest@rhodes.edu)) will be happy to give you more information about the French program at Rhodes.

### German

Germany is the world's third largest economy and among the U.S.'s top three trading partners. Its role



# Rhodes College

—1848—

as a key figure in the European Union and in East-West relations will only continue to grow. Approximately 100 million people speak German as their native language. It is currently one of the major languages of Europe and widely taught in Russia and China as well. German culture is highly regarded in the arts (music, theatre, literature, etc.), philosophy, intellectual history, the sciences and technology. Please contact Prof. Michelle Mattson (mattsonm@rhodes.edu) if you have any further questions.

## Russian

Russia has been a major world power and a leader in the arts (literature, music, theatre, painting, opera, ballet) for more than two centuries. Russia has also distinguished itself in the sciences (physics, biology, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, rocket and aviation sciences). Russian is one of the five most commonly-spoken languages in the world, and one of six international languages of the United Nations. Studying Russian language and culture can lead to careers in international business and law, politics, the arts and medicine. For more information about the Russian Studies program, contact Sasha Kostina (kostina@rhodes.edu).

## Spanish

Spanish is one of the most commonly-spoken languages of the world, used by 332 million people in 23 countries. Knowing Spanish can be crucial in many different careers, from medicine to business to law. In education, government and the sciences, there is a growing need for people who know Spanish to provide services, do research and collaborate with colleagues. Prof. Kathleen Doyle would be happy to provide you with further information on the Spanish program at Rhodes (doyle@rhodes.edu).

### For Further Information

Please contact the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at (901) 843-3733 or Admissions at 1-800-844-5969.

## Study Abroad Opportunities

Three-quarters of foreign language majors travel abroad before graduating. There are summer, semester and year-long programs available to interested students in such places as Madrid, Paris, Mexico, St. Petersburg and Tübingen.

The director of International Programs assists students in preparation for their international education. See the college Web site for more details: rhodes.edu/2208.asp.

## Service Learning Projects

Students majoring in a modern language may be able to earn credit closer to home through a service learning project. Rhodes students may take advantage of projects that involve significant use of another language, thereby gaining practical, hands-on language experience in a nonprofit setting, often during the academic year. Please contact the individual language sections for more details.

## Graduates

**Approximately 55% take full-time jobs within their area of study.** For example, students have taken jobs with International Paper, Wang's International (International key account assistant) and Federal Express (country manager of Russia). Several students have also pursued teaching careers in the U.S. and abroad.

**Approximately 30% immediately pursue graduate degrees.**

Most recently, students have attended University of Georgia, University of Chicago, Vanderbilt, University of Memphis, Tulane, Georgetown, Southern Methodist University, University of Illinois and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for their graduate level work.

**Approximately 15% take positions outside of their area of study.**