

Stanford University

Comparative Literature
Spanish Italian
Russian French Turkish
Iberian German Persian
and Latin American Modern
Portuguese Cultures Languages
Arabic Catalan
Hebrew Yiddish

“A different language is
a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini
Italian film director

Division of Literatures,
Cultures, and Languages

Living in a Globalized World

As the world's population becomes increasingly educated, urbanized, and mobile, the ability to understand and interact with different people is essential.

Learning languages enables you to step inside other cultures and understand them on their own terms, while also allowing you to appreciate your own from an outside perspective. Linguistic and cultural fluency gives you a competitive edge in today's global workforce.

Literature is a product of our rich cultural experiences and the vast potential of the human imagination. Through courses in poetry and prose as well as drama and film, learn to think critically about how people use language to make sense of the world. By reading texts in the original language, you will gain access to worlds lost in translation.





Extend Your Reach

Language is a window into the inner workings of the human mind. Mastering new languages teaches you to think in new ways. Fluency enhances critical reflection, mental flexibility, and creative expression. Use your new skills to do original research in culture, literature, history, politics, and philosophy.

One student applied the skills gained by studying Russian literature to understand the real stories behind people's financial challenges. This awareness allowed him to build a successful tech startup that helps low-income households around the world manage their finances. Another student used the Swahili she learned here to conduct medical research and volunteer in schools in Tanzania.

“ Studying French literature taught me not to settle on asking the easy question, finding the quick answer, or making the comment that would get me in the least amount of trouble. These skills have made me a sharper and more valuable journalist. ”

Samantha Leese, '08 French Literature
Freelance journalist for The Spectator, CNN Travel,
and Agence France-Presse based in Hong Kong

A Full Spectrum

Stanford's Language Center offers more than 40 languages on a regular basis and many more through its Special Language Program. From Basque and Hindi to Tagalog and Turkish, our instructors teach practical skills that will enhance your academic studies and help you live and work around the world.

Immerse yourself in fascinating cultures through gateway courses on France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Latin America, the Iberian Peninsula, China, and Japan.

And select dynamic courses in these majors...

- **French**

*Songs of Love and War: Gender, Crusade, Politics
Philosophy and Literature*

- **Italian**

*Past Imperfect: Revisiting World War Two in Italian Fiction and Film
North/South in Contemporary Italy*

- **German Studies**

*Dynasties, Dictators, Democrats: Contemporary Politics in Germany
Futurity: Why the Past Matters?*

- **Iberian and Latin American Cultures**

*The Millennium Novel in Latin America
Spaces and Voices of Brazil Through Film*

- **Slavic Languages and Literatures**

*Russia's Weird Classic: Nikolai Gogol
The Great Russian Novel: Theories of Time and Action*

- **Comparative Literature**

*Reflection on the Other: The Jew and Arab in Literature and Film
The Novel, the World*

Beyond the Classroom:

Can literature tell the truth?

Why do we care about fictional characters?

Join scholars and faculty members of **Philosophy and Literature@Stanford** to explore topics like the nature and value of beauty and the relationship between literature and cognitive science.

Enhance your understanding of foreign cultures by participating in campus *conferences, poetry readings, music performances, and films* from around the world.

Experience different societies firsthand through the **Bing Overseas Studies Program**. Opportunities for intensive language instruction and practice as well as cultural immersion await you in Berlin, Florence, Madrid, Moscow, Paris, and Santiago, as well as in Beijing, Cape Town, and Kyoto.

“You give to society what you gather in solitude. And so, I’ve never understood why there’s a tension between those who study ‘useful’ things and those who study ‘beautiful’ things. We can and should study both.”

Alex Romanczuk, '12 Comparative Literature, '12 Mathematics
Software engineer for Kanjoya, a tech startup in San Francisco

A Successful Future

Cultural sensitivity. Critical thinking. Adaptability.

An exploration of the world's literatures inspires empathy for the feelings and experiences of others. Developing fluency in foreign languages and familiarity with the nuances of different cultures helps prepare students for international careers in many fields—from diplomacy, law, and business to journalism, education, and the military. Our alumni include ambassadors, entrepreneurs, foreign correspondents, concert pianists, teachers, and doctors.

“Studying a language broadened my thinking about people, cultures, and myself. It catalyzed my later success in engineering and medicine by teaching me to consider many viewpoints when tackling problems affecting real people in the real world.”

Dr. Keith Cross, '89 Slavic Languages and Literatures;
'89, MS '90 Industrial Engineering
Assistant Professor in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the
University of Louisville Medical School



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& **Sciences**