

**INFORMATION AND PLACEMENT GUIDELINES FOR MODERN LANGUAGE COURSES
FOR INCOMING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS**

General information

The Department of Modern Languages (ML) at Bentley University offers courses in five languages: Chinese (CH), Spanish (SP), Italian (IT), French (FR); and Japanese (JA). Courses are offered from the beginning through advanced levels in all languages except Japanese, which only goes through the intermediate series. Full descriptions of all courses are available at the ML Department website:

<http://www.bentley.edu/academics/departments/modern-languages/undergraduate-courses>

The Modern Languages department offers one major *Hispanic Studies*. Students interested in this major should contact Professor Christian Rubio (ext. 2694 or crubio@bentley.edu), Associate Professor of Spanish, for more information.

Students can also *minor* in any of the five modern languages taught in the department. In addition to the regular minor in Spanish, there is also a *Spanish for Business minor*. See the ML website for specific requirements for all language minors:

<http://www.bentley.edu/academics/departments/modern-languages/minor>

Students can choose to study a modern language for a variety of reasons: to pursue career options abroad, to work with foreign clients and/or international employees here in the States, to prove their global competencies to future employers, and to generally prepare themselves for the increasingly global marketplace.

In terms of academic requirements for graduation, students can use courses in Modern Languages to fulfill the Gen Ed requirement in Humanities, to satisfy the language requirement for the Global Perspectives Liberal Studies Major, to satisfy the language requirement for students majoring in a Liberal Arts discipline (e.g., History and/or Media and Culture), or to satisfy language requirements for some study abroad programs. Students also study languages through the Arts and Sciences elective option.

Course Placement Guidelines

The department of Modern Languages uses a combination of tools to determine where students should begin their language study at Bentley, including online placement exams, guidelines based on high school study of a foreign language, and individual assessment by professors in the first week of classes. Please read the information below to help determine which language class is right for you.

- **Online Placement Exams in French and Spanish:** students wishing to study French or Spanish should take an online placement exam (found on the Modern Languages department website under the tab “Testing opportunities: online placement exams”) to help determine where to start their foreign language studies at Bentley. Students will need to remember their scores on

these placement exams and be prepared to give them to their professor during the first week of class. In order for these exams to be accurate, students *must complete the entire exam*.

- **Language Training in High School:** The following general guidelines for placement in ML courses are based on high school language training. Please note that these are only guidelines and may not apply equally to all students. Once classes have started, Modern Languages professors may move a student to a different class based on in-person assessment. Professors reserve the right to deny students entry to a class they believe is below their ability.
 - One year or less of high school training in the target language: **Beginning I** (i.e., all language courses having a 101 designator): MLCH101, MLSP101, MLIT101, MLFR101, MLJA101.
 - One or two years of high school training in the target language: **Beginning II** (i.e., all language courses having a 102 designator): MLCH102, MLSP102, MLIT102, MLFR102, MLJA102.
 - Two or three years of high school training in the target language: **Intermediate I** (i.e., all language courses having a 201 designator): MLCH201, MLSP201, MLIT201, MLFR201, MLJA201.
 - Three or four years of high school training in the target language: **Intermediate II** (i.e., all language courses having a 202 designator): MLCH202, MLSP202, MLIT202, MLPO202, MLFR202, MLJA202.
 - Four or more years of high school training in target language: **Advanced ML courses** (300 or 400 level course)
- **Interview placements at the beginning of each semester:** during the first week of classes each semester, ML professors conduct individual, 10-minute interviews with their students to ensure proper class placement. These interviews typically take place in the professor's office and are conducted in the target language. If a professor feels the student is misplaced in his/her class (despite having used the above listed guidelines), the student will be moved into a more appropriate class (based on class availability and the student's schedule).
- **AP Exams:** students who have scored 4 on an **AP Language and Culture Exam** are ready to continue their chosen language study at the Intermediate II level (202). Students who have scored a 5 should enroll in any ML course above 202. Students of French or Spanish who have received a 4 or 5 on the **AP Literature and Culture Exam** will receive Bentley credit for MLFR303 or MLSP306, respectively. These students can enroll in any course above 202 *except* MLFR303 or MLSP306. Once Bentley course credits are granted for an AP course, students may not repeat that same course at Bentley or they will lose the AP credits. Additionally, once students have taken a course beyond the 202 level, they may not go back to take a lower-level course in the beginner or intermediate sequences. It is advised that students contact the appropriate professor for additional information about interest in registering for a particular advanced course.

Placement in courses above the Intermediate level (300 and 400 levels):

Modern Languages offers a variety of courses beyond the elementary and intermediate language series at the 300 and 400 levels. These courses are open to students possessing advanced language proficiency and/or native, near native proficiency (i.e. heritage) depending upon the course.

Advanced courses in Modern Languages: (300-level)

These courses emphasize general exposure to literature, film, culture, or business-related topics, and spend less time on the basic grammar and vocabulary skills of the target language.

Advanced language courses: (400 level).

These courses often focus on a very precise regional or culture-specific topics: e.g., Caribbean Literature, Youth Movements, Multicultural Identities, Interpretation, etc. These courses generally require solid writing skills in the target language.

For further information or questions, please contact Professor Christian Rubio, Chair of Modern Languages at crubio@bentley.edu.