

Alternative Language Study Option

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The Alternative Language Study Option (ALSO) is a pilot program that offers students the opportunity to study languages outside the traditional language curriculum currently offered at St. Olaf. In 2015-16, Beginning and Intermediate Arabic, Beginning and Intermediate Korean, and Beginning Italian will be offered.

The program is administered as an independent study program through the faculty for Interdisciplinary and General Studies and supervised by the World Languages Center (WLC) director. The WLC offers the necessary space, technology, and instructional materials for language study to be pursued. Any courses taken under the ALSO option cannot be used to fulfill the foreign language general education requirement at St. Olaf; rather, they are intended to serve as a supplementary option for language study.

All language sessions take place in the WLC Resource Room, TOH 153. In each session, students work with a native-speaker language learning facilitator to practice reading, writing, and general language content, including grammar. Outside of these class sessions, students work on assignments to continue learning content that is then practiced in class. Students are also expected to attend weekly tutorial sessions with a native speaker. Throughout the semester, students complete an oral and written midterm and final exam developed by an outside examiner. Students are also expected to meet with the ALSO program director regularly to discuss their progress in the course. Grades are determined through evaluation of student work by the outside examiner and program director.

Requirements

Eligibility for participation in the ALSO program is determined by previous language performance. Interested students must have successfully completed the college's foreign language (FOL) general education requirement within the regular St. Olaf curriculum, must demonstrate evidence of serious motivation and the ability to work independently, and must meet the 2.75 minimum GPA requirement. In addition, students are required to provide two faculty references, one of whom must be a former language professor. Prior to registration, students are required to fill out an application form (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/wlc/also>).

Courses

Alternative Language Study Option: Arabic 100, 101, 200; Korean 102, 103; Italian 104, 105

Students learn a language such as Arabic, Korean or Italian in a guided, independent study program offered through the World Languages Center. They meet with a native speaker facilitator for three hours a week, in addition to ten hours of study on their own and mandatory tutorial sessions. Syllabi and tests are developed and administered in consultation with an expert outside examiner.

Students in this program are strongly encouraged to take courses in the general curriculum that provide important cultural context for the study of their language. The language(s) offered in any semester depend(s) on student interest, usually requiring 2-5 students to

offer a section. Prerequisite: prior completion of FOL general education requirement. For additional course information see <http://wp.stolaf.edu/wlc/also/>