

Undergraduate Language and Culture Programs (Institutional Self-study, Criterion Four, p. 76)

The Lewis Department of Humanities has instituted a plan to meet the following goals:

- Expose students to languages, literatures, and cultures of current global importance.
- Allow students to gain an elementary knowledge of a variety of languages during their undergraduate residency.
- Offer an approach to language and culture that is appropriate to both humanities and non-humanities majors.
- Provide an attractive curriculum feature that admission recruiters can promote.
- Increase enrollment in foreign language courses.
- Increase offerings for “H” credit (i.e., courses that fulfill the general education requirement in humanities).

The following strategies were put into place to meet these goals:

- Construct courses that introduce students not only to the language but also (partly through instruction in English) to the cultural climate in which the language is spoken.
- Feature languages that have current global importance but that are not (except for Spanish) typically available to high-school students.
- Annually rotate the languages offered thus increasing the variety of offerings.
- Offer a “4x4 Foreign Language Guarantee” to prospective IIT undergrads, that is, offer at least four different foreign-language sequences (each sequence consisting of two courses) during a four-year period.

The department's past and future implementation of this plan is outlined below:

	Fall	Spring
AY 2005-06	COM 121: Japanese Language & Culture I	COM 122: Japanese Language and Culture II
AY 2006-07	COM 123: Chinese Language & Culture I (Mandarin) LIT 380: Chinese Literature in Translation I	COM 124: Chinese Language and Culture II (Mandarin) LIT 380: Chinese Literature in Translation II
AY 2007-08	COM 125: Arabic I Course in Arabic Literature in Translation I (tentative, depending on instructor availability)	COM 126: Arabic II Course in Arabic Literature in Translation II (tentative, depending on instructor availability)
AY 2008-09	COM 127: Spanish I Course in Spanish Literature in Translation I	COM 128: Spanish II Course in Spanish Literature in Translation II

In addition, the following initiatives are underway to increase offerings in foreign language, literature, and culture:

- College of Science and Letters Dean F.R. McMorris and Humanities Chair Kathryn Riley have been meeting with Danielle Allen, dean of the humanities division at the University of Chicago, to set up a program that would allow IIT students to enroll in select foreign language courses at the University of Chicago. It is hoped that this program will be inaugurated in summer 2007.
- Shimer College faculty members are coordinating their foreign language offerings to complement those offered by the Lewis Department of Humanities.