Modern Language Ph.D Requirement for
Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1- What is the Modern Language Requirement for the RTC program?

Starting in the fall 2014, all entering PhD students are required to fulfill a two-fold requirement in Modern Languages.

2- What are the components of this requirement?

The requirement comprises a language part, and a global intercultural competency part

3- How does the student satisfy each part of the requirement?

   A- For the language component of the requirement, each new student must choose one of the modern languages other than English currently taught in the Department of Humanities, and demonstrate or attain a level IIB (2nd term of second year of college) reading proficiency in this language.
   B- For the global intercultural competency component, the student must enroll and complete with at least a grade of B one out of a list of approved course.
   C- A student may obtain a waiver for the language component of the requirement (see below).

4- How does the student demonstrate level IIB proficiency in the first part of the Modern Language Requirement?

   A- A student may take a test in one of the languages currently taught in the Department of Humanities. The test will be administered/supervised by a qualified modern language instructor in our Department. A student may take the existing Modern Language placement text. The student’s score must indicate that she/he has tested out of level IIB in the selected language.

   B- Alternatively, the student may enroll in appropriate language course/s as determined by the Graduate Steering Committee, upon recommendation of the Director of Modern Languages in the Department of Humanities.
5- What are the courses approved for the global intercultural competency part of the requirement?

A student may choose among the following courses to satisfy this requirement:

A. Advanced Seminar in Modern Languages (HU 4271, 4272, 4273, HU 4281, 4282, 4283, HU 429*1, 4292, 4293)
B. Critical Perspectives on Globalization (HU 5005)
C. OR other graduate class with strong global intercultural content, and approved by the Graduate Steering Committee

Note: An approved list of courses will be released every year.

6- Can a student obtain a waiver for the Modern Language Requirement?

A- Yes, a student may petition for a waiver for the language component of the requirement. The petition should be addressed to the Director of the Modern Language program.
B- A student cannot obtain a waiver for the global literacy competency component of the requirement.

7- What criteria must be met for a student to obtain a waiver for the language part of the requirement?

A student may be granted a waivered for the language proficiency requirement if they satisfy one of the following criteria:

a) Native, near-native, or demonstrated fluency in a modern language other than English
b) B. A. or higher degree in modern language and literature
c) Fulfillment of a modern language requirement for a graduate degree at another institution within the last five years.

8- Who should petitions for waivers be submitted to?

Waivers petitions should be forwarded to the Modern Language Director for consideration by the Modern Language Steering Committee.

9- How soon must the student complete the Modern Language Requirement?

All Ph.D. students must satisfy the two-part (language and global intercultural coursework) requirement before completion of qualifying exams.