Modern Languages

Descriptions

Spring 2018

Modern Languages 0096-A — Romance Linguistics: An introduction to the history and development of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese & Romanian (cross-listed as Linguistics 096) (in English)
Block I+ - Anne Poncet-Montange

Spoken by nearly 700 million people worldwide, Romance languages constitute, after Mandarin Chinese, the most successful and widespread family of languages. Because of their shared descent from Latin, these languages have a lot in common, especially in their vocabularies and grammars, even though they may differ greatly in pronunciation. The course will focus on such similarities and differences, so that students will not only learn more about the history of their chosen Romance language but also develop analytical skills useful to acquire an additional language in the Romance family. Basic principles of synchronic and diachronic linguistics will be presented. We will also examine the historical factors that hastened the fragmentation of Vulgar Latin and shaped the development of its modern descendants. Prerequisite: Knowledge of at least one Romance language (2 semesters) or Latin or consent.

Texts: Alkire and Rosen, Romance Languages: A Historical Introduction (2010); Solodow, Latin Alive: The Survival of Latin in English and the Romance Languages (2010); Ohio State Dept of Linguistics, Language Files: Materials for An Introduction to Language and Linguistics (11 ed.)