Portuguese

Portuguese is the language spoken in nine countries spanning four continents. The giant looming in this group, of course, is Brazil, a powerful emerging economy of this century. A few years ago, students learning Portuguese were attracted by the vibrant Brazilian culture, its world-renowned music and Capoeira, an African influenced martial art, as well as its five soccer World Cup titles. Nowadays, even though these features still enchant people here and elsewhere, more and more business, economics and environment majors are taking Portuguese, aware of the importance of the country in the new world order.

Energy-independent since 2006 and a pioneer in the production of ethanol, “Brazil has an energy policy that has spawned the world’s most vibrant biofuels industry,” a Newsweek article of 2009 reports. With a population of more than 190 million people, it is one of the 10 largest markets in the world.

The reasons may vary. Students may be interested in Latin American issues or in global matters, willing to explore rich natural resources or participate in the country’s technological possibilities. Portuguese language can supplement students’ education and, for those already fluent in Spanish, it represents a chance to take fast-paced classes and be fluent in one more language in no time.

At Washington University, Portuguese classes are marked by a positive environment and the same joy that make Brazil the right place to host the Summer Olympics in 2016 and the World Cup in 2014. Outside the classroom, students can improve their fluency at Mesa Brasileira, a weekly conversation table, and choose from study abroad programs affiliated with the university, either for the summer or for an entire semester.

Finally, remember that Brazil offers more than 7,000 miles of coastline with beautiful beaches to reward all your hard work. Bem-vindos!

Contact Person: Helene Abrams
Phone: 314/935-5173
E-mail: hcabrams@wustl.edu
Departmental website: http://rll.wustl.edu

For a list of affiliated faculty, please visit the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures faculty page.

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures offers course work in Portuguese; however, there is no major in this area.

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L37 Portug 101 Portuguese I
Introduction to Portuguese language. The course emphasizes acquisition of communicative ability. It also covers basic grammar points through reading and writing activities. Classes are taught entirely in Portuguese. No prior experience in the language is required.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA & A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS EN: H

L37 Portug 102A Portuguese II
Introduction to Portuguese language. This second course in the Portuguese program emphasizes acquisition of communicative ability. It also covers basic grammar structures through reading and writing activities. Classes are taught entirely in Portuguese.
Prerequisite: Portug 101 or permission of instructor.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA & A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS EN: H

L37 Portug 103 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers I
Intensive and accelerated course especially designed to take advantage of students’ knowledge of Spanish and to promote a more rapid learning of Portuguese. Classes are entirely taught in Portuguese and stress oral communication, basic use of grammar, reading and writing skills. Intermediate online placement exam in Spanish is required.

L37 Portug 104 Portuguese for Spanish Speakers II
This course intends to offer a sequence in the learning process initiated in Portug 103. It is a fast-paced class, designated for Spanish speakers with the objective of improving conversational, writing and reading skills. Prerequisite: Portug 103 or permission of instructor.

L37 Portug 201 Intermediate Portuguese 1: Reading and Conversation
The goal of this accelerated-pace course is to review and to enhance the content learned at the basic level. Through reading (we read three short contemporary Brazilian novels) and related conversational activities, students are expected to enrich their vocabulary, gain fluency and improve reading comprehension ability. Prerequisites: two college semesters of Portuguese or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. BU: IS

L37 Portug 215 Reading and Conversation I
The goal of this course is to review and to enhance the content learned at the basic level. Through reading (we read three short contemporary Brazilian novels) and related conversational activities, students are expected to enrich their vocabulary, gain fluency and improve reading comprehension ability. Prerequisites: two college semesters of Portuguese or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA & A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS EN: H
L37 Portug 220 Reading and Conversation II: Intermediate Portuguese
This course is a continuation of Portug 215, therefore an intermediate level in the Portuguese section. Its main goal is to improve students' reading proficiency, as well as to provide a class environment in which conversational skills can be practiced and made into a solid foundation. In addition, the class provides tools to expand vocabulary and promote a cultural understanding of Brazil. Prerequisite: Portug 215 or permission of instructor
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD: EN: H

L37 Portug 400 Independent Study