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. 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 reported. With a population of more than 190 million people, it is one of the 10 largest markets in the world.

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.

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 quite quickly.

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, as well as at "Lusophone Movie Nights," in addition to choosing 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!

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Faculty

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

Majors

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

L37 Portug 400 Independent Study
Credit variable.