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Western Kentucky University
UA68 Potter College of Arts & Letters
Series 7 Modern Languages
Subseries 3 Administration

Contact information:

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Administrative History: Latin and Greek courses were offered from the beginning of the Western Kentucky State Normal School. In 1909, Latin, Greek, French, and German were offered to students by the Department of Ancient and Modern Languages. The number of classes offered increased into the 1940s, particularly Latin, French, and German. The class offerings were stable in the 1950s, except Spanish, which was growing. In 1961, equipment for a listening lab was installed. Greek classes were taught again in 1964 for the first time since 1931; a Russian minor was added in 1965; and Chinese was first offered in 1966 by Herbert Rooney.

Summer sessions in Mexico began in 1964 with Dr. Hatcher directing. Dr. Baldwin helped found the Kentucky Institute of International Studies in 1975. Study abroad in Mexico and Canada was available in 1970, and France in 1972. Graduate level courses were offered in the early 1970s.

But in the 1970s, interest in studying languages began to drop. Latin and Russian were dropped and graduate programs were reduced. Ancient languages continued gradually moving to Religious Studies. On July 1, 1981, the folk studies program was combined with the Department of Foreign Languages and became the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies. Anthropology joined the department in 1996.

Interest in foreign languages began to grow again in the late 1990s. On July 1, 2004, the department separated into the Department of Modern Languages and Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology. A general education requirement was added and enrollment in Spanish, German, and Chinese increased.

Department Heads:

Macon Leiper, 1909-

F.C. Grise, 1918-1959

Paul Hatcher, 1959-1967

C.P. Brown, 1968-08/15/1989

Luz Maria "Luzma" Umpierre, 7/1/1989-1992

Lynwood Montell (interim), 1992-6/30/1993

Larry Danielson, 7/1/1993-6/30/1996

Thomas Baldwin, 7/1/1996-1999

Linda Pickle, 7/1/1999-2006

Carol Wilkerson, 2006-

No dept. head listed 2008-2009

Laura McGee (interim), 2009-2011
Laura McGee, 2011-(current in 2014)

Sources:

UA68/8/7 Pickle, Linda, 100 Years of Languages at WKU

https://www.wku.edu/modernlanguages/100_years_languages/

UA2 Board of Regents Minutes, various

Spurlock, Suzanne, A History of the Development of the Foreign Language Department at Western Kentucky University, December 1974

UA45 State Normal Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 4, August 1909

Description: Records created for the administration of the Modern Languages department.

Dates: 1981-present

Extent: 1 folder

Subject Analytics:

Meetings

Modern Languages (WKU)

Potter College of Arts & Letters (WKU)

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Higher Education Administration

Modern Languages

Accession Information: These records transferred to the WKU Archives from WKU Modern Languages in accordance with the records retention schedule.

Access Restrictions: none

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Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2014, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

11/04/2019

UA68.7.3	Records	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA68.7
Title	UA68 Potter College of Arts & Letters	
Collection	Series 7 Modern Languages	
Scope & Content	Subseries 3 Administration	
	WKU Archives	
	Records created for the administration of the Modern Languages Department.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Box 1	1	Modern Languages (WKU)	1981	Faculty Meeting Minutes Subjects Meetings