2014

UA68/7/3 Modern Languages - Administration

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Biographical/Historical Note: 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 07/01/1981, 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 07/01/2004, 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, 1918-1949
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
http://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

Subject Analytics:
Meetings
Modern Languages (WKU)
Potter College of Arts & Letters (WKU)
Western Kentucky University

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

Access Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: UA68/7/3 Modern Languages Administration, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

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**Title:** UA68 Potter College of Arts & Letters Series 7. Modern Languages Subseries 3. Administration  
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**Scope & Content:** Records created for the administration of the Modern Languages Department.

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