

The degree which I am proposing is a composite of four different disciplines, each of which offers a degree at the University of Utah. The reason that I wish to combine these areas of study is that no one area in itself provides me with what it is that I am looking for in my education. I wish to integrate the Spanish, French, Italian, and Linguistics majors into a degree that will provide me with the language competency in each individual language as well as a linguistic perspective on the family of Romance languages.

The value of such a degree is that it offers me a skill set that distinguishes me from other students going into one of my potential post-baccalaureate field (or fields) of study. While my transcript makes it apparent that I have already studied Spanish, I wish to broaden my knowledge base beyond what a Spanish major offers.

I have taken time to investigate the programs available at other universities that are similar to the one that I wish to design, and have found that most degrees with titles such as "Romance Languages" most often focus solely on literature of Romance language-speaking nations, taught entirely in English. However, I was able to find a degree at UCLA which resembles more closely what it is I am looking for. The degree, "Scandinavian Languages" requires, upon admission into the major, that a student be able to speak at a 3000 level three or more languages in the Scandinavian family, which includes Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish. The course list is non-specific, but it requires that students take a combination of 12 classes in at least three of those languages, all of which are taught in the target language.

Using this UCLA major as a point of departure, I have looked at course offerings here at the University of Utah and designed a degree that will require that I take four upper-division classes in both Spanish and French, as well as the one upper-division class available in Italian, a total of 27 hours of upper-division credit. As an enhancement to my degree and an augmentation to these 27 hours, I plan to have studied two of these three languages in one each of their native countries. I have lived in Mexico City for two years while serving a mission for the LDS Church from 1997-1999, and plan to complete the Italian portion of this major on a 7-week study abroad program in the summer of 2004. I feel that having learned a language in its native environment will allow me not only a more working and practical knowledge of the language itself, but also of its surrounding culture which knowledge will aide me in my final capstone project.

Furthermore, I wish not only to be able to use these three languages in academic contexts, but also to have an understanding of their history and underlying linguistic structure; therefore, I have added a requirement of 4 upper-division linguistics classes, or 12 additional credit hours, for a total of 42 hours upper-division credit for my proposed undergraduate degree.

With respect to a capstone project, I would like to do something that would relate to one of my potential post-graduate fields of study. At this time, my two preferred options are to apply to law school or to graduate school in Linguistics. Taking this into consideration, the capstone project I propose would entail studying the history of the Romance languages in order to understand how, when and why they evolved in their particular manner from Vulgar Latin. For example, how do the histories of French, Spanish and Italian speaking peoples affect the way these languages are spoken today? I

believe that writing a paper which embraces both a historical and contemporary perspective an which looks at complex, multiple variables over a period of more than a thousand years and across four continents, would help me develop critical, analytical skills that will serve me well in whatever field of study I choose to enter.

To sum up, the major I propose will allow me to take advantage of a broader spectrum of courses offered at the University of Utah, and will allow me to gain a valuable, unique and specific skill set that will set me apart from other students in my future education and career opportunities. Appended to this proposal is a list of general course requirements, including the courses that I have already completed.

Class Listings for Romance Languages Degree:

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| + | Spanish 3060: Advanced Grammar and Composition | 4 hrs |
| + | Spanish 3580: Contemporary Issues | 3 hrs |
| + | Spanish 4630: Intro to Spanish-American Literature | 3 hrs |
| + | Spanish 4620: Intro to Spanish Literature | 3 hrs |
| + | French 1010: Beginning French | 4 hrs |
| + | French 1020: Beginning French II | 4 hrs |
| + | French 2010: Intermediate French | 4 hrs |
| + | French 2020: Intermediate French II | 4 hrs |
| | French 3040: Advanced Conversation and Reading | 3 hrs |
| | French 3330: Advanced French Phonetics | 3 hrs |
| | French 4500: Language and Culture in the Francophone World | 3 hrs |
| | French 4550: French Civilization | 3 hrs |
| + | Italian 1010: Beginning Italian | 4 hrs |
| C | Italian 1020: Beginning Italian II | 4 hrs |
| | Italian 2010: Intermediate Italian | 4 hrs |
| | Italian 2020: Intermediate Italian II | 4 hrs |
| | Italian 3950: Service Learning in Italian | 3 hrs |
| | Italian 4500: Italian Language and Literature | 6 hrs |
| + | Linguistics 1200: Intro to Study of Language | 3 hrs |
| C | Linguistics 3160: Language and Cognition | 3 hrs |
| | Linguistics 3600: Cross-Cultural Communication | 3 hrs |
| | Linguistics 5240: Linguistic Structure of Spanish | 3 hrs |
| | Linguistics 5250: Linguistic Structure of French | 3 hrs |
| | Capstone Course 5991: Thesis | 3 hrs |

Total Specialized Hours: 84

Total Hours Above 4000 Level: 27

I also reserve the right as a student to change these requirements, so long as they meet the required upper-division total, as determined by course availability, time, etc.