Overview

The Linguistics Dept. and the Yamada Language Center (YLC) have offered instruction in languages not usually taught at UO for 18 years now. Using the expertise of its faculty, the resources of the YLC, and talented native speaker tutors, the Self-Study language program (SSLP) aims to provide motivated students with a unique small group language learning opportunity. Students set their own goals, are assessed on an individual basis, and generally make remarkable language progress.

Requirements

SSLP classes can be taken for one, two, or three credits on a Pass/No Pass basis only. (This variation in credit depends on how much work you intend to put into the class and what your background as a language learner is). If you’re taking the class for 3 credits, you’re required to meet with the program coordinator or GTF at least once during the term. All students are encouraged to take advantage of office hours (TBA).

To obtain a Pass in the class your requirements are:

1. Regular Attendance at Weekly Classes.
You are required to attend class. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in an automatic "no pass". We expect you to be prepared to engage with your tutor, and to be ready to help him/her set the agenda and direction of the class. With only two meetings per week, staying up with class and doing regular work outside of class is essential for progress.

2. Weekly reflection on your learning and completion of assignments.
ANVILL’s response tool is used as a means for weekly reflection on the quality and quantity of your learning (http://anvill.uoregon.edu). Each week you’re asked to respond to a set of questions that ask you to reflect about your activities in the language during the week and your degree of progress. (These are checked regularly; late ones aren’t accepted). In addition, since the online portfolio tool is set up for audio and video as well as text, many students choose to use this space as a way of practicing what they’ve been working on for that week. Greetings, descriptions, and short presentations work well in this format. Other students prefer to use it for practice of specific vocabulary or pronunciation.

Class Structure

SSLP classes are led by tutors who are highly proficient speakers of each language. Lessons are smaller and less formal than traditional language classes. We take a communicative approach to language teaching, typically covering 3-4 broad student-determined topics per term. Class work, then, is focused on acquiring the language necessary to accomplish specific tasks in those areas. The tutor’s role is to interact and respond in the target language rather than to teach and test. That may seem strange at first, but if you consider that “autonomy” is one of the explicit goals of the program, we think you’ll eventually find it very beneficial.

Fee

There is no instructional fee for UO students taking LT 199 for credit; for all others (including faculty and non-credit UO students) the fee is $150.00 — please pay YLC by cash or check by the first class meeting. There is no free auditing.

Materials

YLC provides a wide variety of resource materials for your use. These include films, audio and video recordings, special writing software, and other web-based activities. We strongly encourage working with a fellow class member outside of class. The course website provides links to all resources as well as timely information. Don’t hesitate to ask the coordinator or YLC staff for help in using these and other materials.

Please be aware that LT 199 classes do not satisfy the Bachelor of Arts foreign language requirement.

Mandatory Orientation/Scheduling Meeting: April 1 from 4:00-5:30 p.m.