

Rockville Updates

History and Political Science

Enrollment

The department has successfully offered the Asians in America course (HIST 209) for the first time in several years. The last week has seen a noticeable uptick in enrollments. Early College and Dual Enrollment classes are doing well.

Faculty Accomplishments

- Sadegh Foghani is participating in a Global Classrooms Fellowship.
- Aram Hessami has finished his documentary on the persecution of the B'hai faith in Iran (Masking a Genocide) and is looking for venues to screen it.
- Greg Sember has had his students interacting with a number of local politicians (mayor, councilmembers, county executives, the lieutenant governor, etc.) and has developed a partnership with the Dept. of State's Museum of American Diplomacy.
- Sylvea Hollis is working with the National Park Service on investigating local 19th century African-American history.
- Layla Hashemi will be shortly publishing her book Antiquities Smuggling in the Real and Virtual World (Routledge).

Challenges

- Finding ways to help students navigate the student registration process
- Building enrollments in on-campus classes, which means building students' confidence and social skills
- Re-establishing campus services where they are not currently operating
- Smoothing the offering of the Early College experience for students to make it more predictable, more reliably and sustainably scheduled, and more college-like.

World Languages and Philosophy

American Sign Language Program (ASLP)

The Associate of Arts Degree Program in American Sign Language is a transfer-degree program designed for students who plan to enter fields in which they would work with Deaf people on a daily basis. Following program completion, students would transfer to a four-year degree program majoring in American Sign Language, Deaf studies, Deaf education, interpreter education, or social work.

The Certificate program in American Sign Language is designed to provide students with a foundation in ASL and would benefit those pursuing business or other service-oriented fields where they might be called upon to communicate directly with Deaf clients. It also prepares students who hold a B.A. in another discipline, but would like to pursue careers in translation and interpretation. More detailed information on the AA degree program in ASL

or on the Certificate program in ASL, visit the site
<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/american-sign-language/index.html>

- There are approximately 70 students who declare their A.A. degree in ASL and/or ASL certificate.
- More than 250 students take ASLP 100 (ASL level 1), ASLP 200 (ASL level 2), and ASLP 121 (Intro to Deaf community and culture) in the academic year.
- ASL Club is one of the most favorite social activities for ASL students.
- Provide ASL tutoring service three hours a week.
- The ASL Program Coordinator, Larry Stephen and the WL and the Humanities area leadership team are getting ready to complete the College Area Review (CAR) and are currently assembling the Advisory Board.
- The discipline and department are actively working with ASL students who are expecting to graduate this May.

Philosophy

The Philosophy discipline is currently in Year 2 of the Assessment Cycle (General Education Recertification and Interim Data Collection Report). In Fall 2021, philosophy faculty completed and submitted to the Gen Ed Committee packets for recertification for all current philosophy Gen Ed courses. The recertification process is expected to conclude in February, 2022. We are currently collecting data (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) for our Interim Data Collection Report due August 1, 2022. The discipline participates in MC Open and Fully Online Degrees and Certificates initiatives (Z- courses and Z-degrees).

As new projects, our PHIL coordinator and faculty members are working on the development of new course offerings to increase enrollment and student success:

PHIL 205: Philosophy in Literature (online, z-course) offered since Spring 2018 (Rubavichute).

PHIL 212: Women in Philosophy I (online, z-course) offered since Fall 2020 (Rubavichute).
Submission of PHIL 209: Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies for Gen Ed certification in Fall 2021 (Collins and Ruppert).

There is a plan to develop PHIL 218: Women in Philosophy II (online, z-course) in the near future (Rubavichute) and to create hybrid seven-week sections of PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy offered since Spring 2021 (Rubavichute).

In terms of interdisciplinary projects, our coordinator introduced the “Fields of Study Collaborative Project” with Criminal Justice Faculty for PHIL 140: Introduction to the Study of Ethics and PHIL 201: Morality and Contemporary Law: this project centers on providing an opportunity for Criminal Justice students taking these courses to explore issues related to their program of study (McWhirter and Jenkins (TP/SS)).

In addition, the General Studies HACL Area/Philosophy Focus Project is now completed. Professor Rubavichute serves as the General Studies Program Advisor for the Philosophy Focus. Please visit the link for details:

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/programs/general-studies/humanities-arts-communications-and-languages/philosophy.html>

The Philosophy Club is run and led by Prof. Ruppert. In this club, students focus on the critical study and discussion of philosophical questions, both in practice and theory. Philosophy faculty share best practices and resources on the recently developed Philosophy Faculty Community Site on Blackboard. Our part-time philosophy instructor, Geoffrey Batchelder, is a Schoenberg Fellowship recipient.

World Languages

World Languages faculty continue to foster authentic language skills through Global Classrooms partnerships between MC students and undergraduate students in Latin America, and through collaborative professional development opportunities between Montgomery College faculty and international partners.

The World Languages discipline continues to expand OER course offerings. We currently offer JAPN 101, JAPN 102, SPAN 101, SPAN 102, SPAN 103, SPAN 201 and SPAN 202 as Z-courses, resulting in significant savings for students. Other world languages courses have begun to supplement with OER materials while we continue to investigate OER options. There is a possibility of offering FREN courses with OER resources, in partnership with ELITE.

The ITAL 201 course proposal has been presented to the Collegewide Curriculum Committee (CCC) newsletter. We hope to move forward in order to offer this course in fall 2022. We continue to research new courses to provide students additional opportunities to expand their language skills at the intermediate level and complete language requirements for transfer.

Our Latin instructor, Erika Bucciantini, is a Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship recipient.

Khady Diène is now the new college-wide French coordinator. She received the DELF certification (examiner, French Proficiency Placement Test) from the French Embassy. Khady Diene also won the Global Faculty Classrooms fellowship. Her FREN 101 students in Fall 2021 really appreciated their semester-long virtual collaboration with the students from UCAD (Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar). Khady has also engaged in the process to organize a French Study Abroad program in Paris, France starting Summer 2023. Students are excited about this opportunity!

In terms of challenges, after having dealt with COVID-19, we are now dealing with the new variants. It has been a challenge to go back on campus and teach face-to-face classes while following the CDC and Montgomery County guidelines to provide students and employees with a safe, COVID-free environment. Faculty did an excellent job in providing outstanding classes, despite the challenges. The student course evaluations and letters of appreciation reflected the faculty hard work. The faculty's dedication can also be measured in the increase of enrollments and students' retention in the French program.

On another note, since Fall 2021, our college-wide Extempore Cloud Coordinator, Valerie Tanner, has trained eleven World Languages faculty in software orientation, troubleshooting strategies, creative assessments and LMS integration, so they can use our World Languages Cloud Recording Platform to enhance student listening, speaking, cultural awareness and cognitive skills.