The Critical Languages Program enables students to study important foreign languages relevant to their academic interests but not taught in regular courses at Williams. The program can field a limited number of courses per year*, and it has offered one-year of elementary Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, and Swahili thus far. Students work independently with standard language textbooks and audio materials for roughly ten hours per week and attend twice weekly group review sessions with tutors who are native speakers. Language faculty from other institutions provide the course syllabus, conduct the exams, and determine the final grades. An organizational meeting for enrolled students is held the first week of each semester.

Interested students must present an application and have it approved before registering for a course. Applications are available during the first two weeks of April and can be obtained from the Coordinator at the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Hollander 230 or online at cflc.williams.edu/critical-languages.

Note that like other elementary language courses, the Critical Languages courses are hyphenated, meaning no credit is given for the first semester until the second semester is successfully completed. Students must normally begin a course in the fall semester. It cannot be taken Pass/Fail. An organizational meeting will be held the first week of each semester.

A consecutive year of intermediate language study will be considered only upon petition of those students completing a full year of elementary study with the Critical Languages Program and as long as a minimum of two students are enrolled to continue their language study.

All courses adhere to the guidelines of the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs (NASILP).

*A Critical Languages course will be scheduled only if and when at least two students are accepted for study and provided a native tutor and outside examiner have been contracted.

CRHE 101 (F) Hebrew

Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language being able to hold simple conversations, use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions, and gain familiarity with basic, frequently used grammatical structures of the language.

Class Format: twice-weekly, review sessions
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April
Enrollment Limit: 8
Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course; 8 class size limit
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: JWST Elective Courses

CRHE 102 (S) Hebrew

Continuation in developing communicative skills and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: CRHE 101
Enrollment Limit: 8
Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course
CRHE 301 (F) Intermediate Hebrew
Intermediate level in developing linguistic abilities and fundamental reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Students will be able to carry on more sophisticated conversations; use the language to manage logistics of everyday life; and demonstrate more complicated grammatical structures in speaking and writing.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April

Enrollment Limit: 8

Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course; 8 class size limit

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

CRHE 302 (S) Intermediate Hebrew
Continuation of intermediate skills in speaking and writing.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: CRHE 201

Enrollment Limit: 8

Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year