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 cfllc.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.

CRPO 101 (F) Elementary Portuguese
A course in elementary Portuguese will be offered for one year with Vassar College, to be conducted using online technology with their native-speaking tutor. The course will be scheduled according to the Vassar College academic calendar, which is slightly different from the Williams academic year calendar.

Class Format: lecture; meets 2x/wk for one-hour review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation: grading is 20% attendance/preparedness, 15% midterm and 50% final; exams are oral and written and administered by an outside consultant
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
Expected Class Size: 2-4
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 TBA Jane E. Canova

CRPO 102 (S) Elementary Portuguese
A course in elementary Portuguese will be offered for one year with Vassar College, to be conducted using online technology with their native-speaking tutor. The course will be scheduled according to the Vassar College academic calendar, which is slightly different from the Williams academic year calendar.

Class Format: lecture; course meets 2x/wk for one-hour review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation: grading is 20% attendance/preparedness, 30% midterm and 50% final; exams are oral and written and administered by


an outside consultant

Prerequisites: CRPO 101

Enrollment Limit: 8

Expected Class Size: 2-4

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 TBA Jane E. Canova