The Self-Instructional Languages Program (SILP) 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; a Self-Instructional Languages course will be scheduled only if and when at least two students are accepted for study and a tutor/examiner have been contracted. In the past, we have offered one-year long Elementary Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, and Swahili courses. In 2022-23, American Sign Language has been added to the offerings. 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 complete an application and have it approved before registering for a course. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Note that like other elementary language courses, the Self-Instructional Languages courses are hyphenated, meaning no credit is given for the first semester if the second semester is not completed. Students must normally begin a course in the fall semester. It cannot be taken Pass/Fail.

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 Self-Instructional 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).

CRPO 101 (F) Elementary Portuguese

Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language, be 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 and the writing system of the language. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: This course is conducted using online technology with Vassar College. The course will be scheduled according to the Vassar College academic calendar. The class meets twice-weekly for one-hour review sessions with Vassar’s native-speaking tutor.

Requirements/Evaluation: Grading is 20% attendance/preparedness, 30% 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 Self-Instructional Languages Program in April.

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit.

Expected Class Size: 2-8

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

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course. Contingent on continuation of Vassar-Williams partnership.

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

CRPO 102 (S) Elementary Portuguese
Continuation in developing communicative skills, vocabulary building, and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures and writing. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: This is a one-year course in partnership with Vassar College, conducted using online technology. The course will be scheduled according to the Vassar College academic calendar. Classes meet with Vassar's native-speaking tutor. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.

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

Enrollment Preferences: Students who have completed CRPO 101. Sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Self-Instructional Languages Program in April.

Expected Class Size: 2-8

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

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course; contingent on continuation of course partnership with Vassar College

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled