

Vanderbilt Center for Languages
Spring 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The Vanderbilt Center for Languages (VCL) is thrilled to announce a new initiative aimed at fostering interdisciplinary collaboration: **Culture and Language Across the Curriculum (CLAC)**. This innovative program seeks to enhance students' academic experience by incorporating language and cultural perspectives into courses across various disciplines, fostering a truly global and immersive learning environment.

What is CLAC?

CLAC integrates foreign language use into courses outside traditional language departments, enabling students to deepen their understanding of diverse cultures and perspectives within the context of their chosen fields. By adding this linguistic dimension, CLAC offers a distinctive approach to teaching and learning that prepares students for meaningful engagement in our interconnected world.

Why Collaborate on CLAC?

For non-language instructors, CLAC provides unique opportunities to:

- **Expand Course Horizons:** Enrich your curriculum by including resources and discussions in other languages, enhancing students' global understanding of your subject area.

- **Strengthen Interdisciplinary Connections:** Partner with language instructors to integrate linguistic and cultural expertise into your courses.

- **Encourage Immersion:** Offer students an experiential, real-world dimension to their studies by bridging language learning and discipline-specific content.

- **Support Vanderbilt's Immersion Initiative:** Align your courses with Vanderbilt's Immersion program, emphasizing experiential, multidisciplinary learning.

For language instructors, CLAC provides unique opportunities to:

- **Expand Student Audiences:** Gain access to new groups of students in non language majors and minors.

- **Strengthen Interdisciplinary Connections:** Partner with non-language instructors to explore new topics and add to your expertise.

Upcoming Events

To explore the potential of CLAC at Vanderbilt, we are pleased to welcome **Deborah Reisinger**, Dean of Undergraduate Education for Trinity College at Duke University. Dr. Reisinger is an expert in CLAC initiatives and will share insights from her experience overseeing CLAC implementation at Duke. She will discuss their transformative impact on interdisciplinary teaching and learning in a public lecture for non-language and

language faculty and administrators. **April 4 @ 3:10pm (Reception begins at 2:45pm in the VCL.)**

We invite you to invite you and your colleagues to join us at the following events:

Coffee and Conversation (COCO): Meet and Greet

An informal gathering to exchange ideas about interdisciplinary CLAC collaboration between non-language and language faculty at Vanderbilt.

Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 2:30-3:30 PM

Location: Vanderbilt Center for Languages (VCL)

Dean Deb Reisinger Lecture: *Beyond the Language Classroom: Embedding Multilingualism in Higher Education*

Insights from Duke's CLAC programs and strategies for implementation at Vanderbilt

Date: April 4, 2025

Time: 3:10 PM (Reception begins at 2:45)

Location: Vanderbilt Center for Languages (VCL)

Coffee and Conversation (COCO): *Three CLAC Course Models to Consider* Paz Pintané, Carolina Palacios, Jonathan Hiskey

Faculty colleagues present on current & imagined CLAC models at Vanderbilt **Date:** April 17

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Vanderbilt Center for Languages (VCL)

Why Attend?

CLAC provides an exciting avenue for collaboration between language and non-language disciplines. Whether you teach history, environmental science, engineering, business, or another subject, CLAC can help create opportunities to enrich your course content while giving students immersive, culturally enriched experiences.

Questions?

Please reach out to any member of the VCL Language Advisory Pedagogy Committee: Nathalie Dieu-Porter, Pengfei Li, Maria Paz Pintané, Seok Bae Jang, Albina Khabibulina, or Hideko Shimizu