



Tips for Success in Modern Languages

- **Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to learn a language is to practice speaking, writing, and listening. Whenever possible complete extra exercises in the textbook or workbook.
- **Go to every class.** Listening to your instructor and other students in the course will help you solidify your knowledge.
- **Study every day.** Learning a language is a cumulative process. You cannot cram all the information in before an exam. Review old topics frequently to build a strong foundation for learning new information.
- **Use flash cards.** Flash cards are excellent tools to help you learn vocabulary and verb conjugations. You can even color code your flash cards to further stimulate the learning process. Many languages have male, female, and neutral words; assign a color to each gender for ease of learning relationships.
- **Attend the roundtables several days each week.** If you do not have access to a roundtable, engage in conversations with your instructor, other students in the class, or listen to recordings. Reading out loud and listening to music or television shows in the language you are trying to learn can be helpful too.
- **Practice for the specific type of exam you will take.** For example, if it is an oral exam, practice by speaking; if it is a written exam, practice by writing.
- **Get help if you need it.** Talk with your professor or other students in your class to gain extra support.
- **Maintain a positive attitude.** Keep in mind that learning a language is a process; it will take time. Be patient with yourself and celebrate your successes!

Please note: This information is compiled in conjunction with the School of American & Global Studies.