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Emory College
Language Center

presents

Reversing the Trend of Falling Enrollments in World Languages: New Messaging and Curricular Innovation



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November 14, 2019

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Modern Languages Building

Room 201

The history of the MLA enrollment census strongly suggests that declining enrollments in world languages is not just a 'blip' but rather a trend. This talk explores the gravity of the problem and possible reasons for this resistance to language study, including negative public attitudes toward world language study. We conclude that frustration stems from speaking proficiency as the perceived sole measure of success – a skill that takes time to achieve and may be lost without consistent practice. We propose new messaging that highlights the development of intercultural competency that evolves by interacting in full-immersion language courses and through explicit instruction in the attitudes and qualities of the interculturally competent global citizen. Suggestions for implementation at the course, program, university and community levels are provided.