

World Languages Fair 2021 Presentation Descriptions

ACT and SAT: Grow Your Score with Word Roots

More than 60% of words in English come from Latin and Greek roots. Learning the roots can expand your vocabulary dramatically! Come see how, and leave with a big bundle of new words.

Presenter: Tara S. Welch, University of Kansas

Alpha, Beta, Gamma...Learn the Greek Alpha-bet

Learn to read and write the alphabet used by ancient Greeks like Homer and Plato, and by modern scientists, doctors, and members of honor societies, fraternities and sororities! It's easier than you think and comes in handy more often than you imagine.

Presenter: Craig Jendza, University of Kansas

The Ancient Roman Selfie

In this session, we'll take a close look at portraits of Romans from ancient Egypt in the time that it was Egyptian, Greek, and Roman. We'll learn about how these Romans of all ages dressed, wanted to be seen--and so find diverse voices of Egypto-Roman culture, including those of non-rich, non-male and non-ethnic Romans.

Presenter: Benjamin McCloskey, Kansas State University

Arabic Families

Come learn about all the people that make up an Arabic family and the culture of respect among family members that is woven through Arabic societies. Arabic numbers 1-10 will also be included in this session!

Presenter: Asmaa Benbaba, University of Kansas

Atlas-Zephyr: Ancient Myths behind Today's Words

Come explore the mythic origins of such common English words as "tantalizing," "Herculean," and "echo." You'll learn some new myths amid some familiar ones, and you'll never think of some words the same way again!

Presenter: Tara S. Welch, University of Kansas

Au Café

There are few French scenes as iconic as the corner café, mais attention! There is proper etiquette and vocabulary for ordering at these mainstays of French culture. Come learn the difference between un café crème and un café noisette. Practice placing your order now!

Presenter: Brian Moots, Pittsburg State University

Baila Flamenco!

Come join us for a Flamenco session (Spain) to learn about cultural diversity through dance! You will learn what flamenco is, body posture, arm and hand movements, and some fun flamenco tapping steps!

Presenter: Chita Espino-Bravo, Fort Hays State University

Baila Zambra Mora!

Learn Zambra Mora steps, moves, and combos. It is a graceful, sensual Spanish dance and music tradition with Moorish, Sephardi, and Gitano origins, and later associated with Flamenco dance. No prior dance experience or shoes required!

Presenter: D. Nicole English, Fort Hays State University

Chinese Food Culture

Did you know that Chinese cuisine represents one of the richest and most diverse culinary heritages in the world? This session will introduce different dishes served during the year, the essentials of table etiquette, and the aesthetic sense and philosophical thinking behind Chinese food.

Presenter: Yan Li, University of Kansas

Conversational Japanese

Konnichiwa! Are you interested in learning Japanese? Come learn how to greet and introduce yourself in a Japanese manner as well as some useful phrases for everyday situations. Take along your name in Japanese as a souvenir!

Presenter: Kotoko Grass, Johnson County Community College

Decoding the Deutsch

Curious about what makes Germans German? Every country has its own cultural habits, and Deutschland is no different. Come learn about the major differences between German and American cultures as well as some useful phrases if you ever find yourself in Germany!

Presenters: Schirin Kourehpaz, University of Kansas

Discovering Linguistic Features in Japanese

Karaoke, judo, emoji, edamame ... did you know these words were originally Japanese and 'imported' to English? Come discover how words are imported and exported between English and Japanese. Learn pronunciation and other cool aspects of Japanese by exploring rap lyrics and more.

Presenters: Utako Minai and Yuka Naito Billen, University of Kansas

Diversity from a Ugandan Perspective

The East African nation of Uganda is home to more than 54 languages, each with distinct cultures, like Luganda, spoken by over 6 million people. Come learn more about how such diverse communities coexist together and practice speaking some phrases in Luganda!

Presenters: Sharif Tusuubira, University of Kansas

Everyday Italian

Grazie! Per favore! Potrei avere... No matter where you go, being able to speak a few phrases in the native language is essential. Come learn how to introduce yourself, count, and practice useful, everyday phrases in Italian!

Presenters: Massimiliano Cirulli, University of Kansas

Exploring Kaqchikel Maya Poetry

Revel in the rich metaphors and stirring themes of some of Guatemala's most luminous contemporary poets. Open up your ears to the electric sounds of the Kaqchikel language, in poem form. Catch a glimpse of a whole new world, through *pach'un tzij* (poetry). No familiarity with Mayan languages required!

Presenters: Emily Tummons, University of Kansas

Food in the German-Speaking World

In this class, we will talk about food in different regions of the German-speaking world, including its many international influences. Students will learn about regional differences and the cultural diversity that exists in Germany today.

Presenters: Necia Chronister, Kansas State University

French around the World

Explore the French-speaking world outside of France! Come learn how sections of Canada, the Caribbean, and West Africa became affiliated with France and its language, the role colonialism played, and some interesting facts about the Francophone world!

Presenters: Brigid Enchill, University of Kansas

From the Andes: The Most Spoken Indigenous Language

Imaynalla? Come discover the language of the Inka Empire: Quechua! The Quechua language is spoken today by more than ten million speakers in South America, primarily in the Andes regions of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Perú. From empire to modern day, come explore the Quechua languages and the culture of the Quechua peoples!

Presenters: Epifania Guaraguara Villca, University of Kansas

Gladiators and Games in Ancient Rome

Who became gladiators? How did they train? Did they really fight to the death? What other contests happened in the arena? Come learn about Roman games - who played, who watched, who profited, and who paid the price.

Presenters: Gina White, University of Kansas

How Colombians Address Each Other

Most Spanish speakers use 'tú' or 'usted' when addressing someone. In Colombia, many aspects influence the use of 'tú' and 'usted' including the social status, gender, age and even the mood of the other person. Come learn this multifaceted way of relating to one another!

Presenter: Giovani Lopez Lopez, Fort Hays State University

In the Heart of Europe: Czech Language and Culture

In the heart of Europe lies a beautiful country with more than 2000 castles, an intriguing history, and a hip modern culture. Come learn some Czech language and culture, and find out why the country Czechia is amazing and fun to visit.

Presenter: Lisa Giullian, University of Kansas

Introduction to Croatia

Come explore Croatia, the European country with Roman ruins and a spectacular Mediterranean coastline. Learn some basic pronunciation rules while exploring popular destinations and learn how to introduce yourself and to count in Croatian so that you can interact with the locals.

Presenter: Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, University of Kansas

Introduction to the Arabic Language and Culture

Come take a crash course in Arabic! In this session, you'll learn the basics of the sounds and writing system of the Arabic language as well as some common Arabic greetings and facts about Arab culture.

Presenters: Amal El Haimeur and Ahmed Adly, University of Kansas

Introduction to the Korean Language and Culture

Come learn the Korean alphabet, a guide for how to read Korean names, and useful tips about Korean culture especially when introducing yourself to Korean friends and their families!

Presenter: Ji-Yeon Lee, University of Kansas

Introduction to Turkish and Turkey

Join this session to learn what the Turkish language is like and to learn about Turkey's vast history, beautiful landmarks, and rich cuisine. Discover the top 10 places to visit and top 10 foods to try while learning some Turkish words and phrases along the way!

Presenter: Esra Predolac, University of Kansas

Japanese Animation

Interested in learning more about anime? This session will include an anime trivia quiz put together by the WSU anime class, as well as a discussion on what makes "anime" anime.

Presenter: Jennifer Musaji, Wichita State University

Kujitambulisha: Introduce Yourself

Kiswahili is a Bantu language with a rich African cultural heritage, widely spoken in Central and Eastern Africa, and is the official language of Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Come learn how to introduce yourself and say hello in this African lingua franca!

Presenters: Brenda Wawire and Peter Ojiambo, University of Kansas

Learn Some Common Italian Words!

Have you ever wondered how to pronounce "pizza", or "spaghetti" in an authentic Italian way? Or are there other Italian words you are curious to learn? Join us for a fun interactive talk to familiarize yourself with Italian!

Presenters: Paola Ghezzeo and Lauralyn Bodle, University of Kansas

Learn the Russian азбука in 30 Minutes (or Less)!

This session will introduce you to the 33 letters of the Russian alphabet and will help you to sound out a range of words that you will find quite familiar, like интернет, водка, смартфон and супермаркет. Leave with your name spelled out in Russian!

Presenter: Kamila Saifeeva, University of Kansas

Let's Karaoke in Portuguese!

The purpose of this short presentation is to introduce students to a variety of music genres from the Portuguese speaking-world. Explore different traditional rhythms, familiarize yourself with life in different regions where Portuguese is spoken, and learn some basic expressions in Portuguese while singing songs.

Presenter: Simone Cavalcante Da Silva, University of Kansas

Lost in Lagos: an Adventure in Nigerian Languages

Kedu? Imagine you have landed in Lagos, Nigeria and need to navigate the languages and cultures you will encounter. Come learn about Nigeria's linguistic diversity, the basics of saying hello in Igbo, cultural elements to be aware of, and a few other useful phrases!

Presenter: Ogochukwu C. Ngwudike, University of Kansas

Medieval Warfare: Life, Myths and Sports

Fan of Game of Thrones? The Witcher? This session will interactively explore warfare and sports in medieval Europe, showcase conventional myths about the Middle Ages and look at how this legacy continues to shape our world today.

Presenter: Ángel M. Rañales Pérez, University of Kansas

Persian Language and Culture

Persian, an Indo-European language, is spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and other parts of Central Asia. Persians take pride in their rich cultural history, many elements of which date back to at least 2500 years. Come learn about their beautiful festivals and pick up a few Persian phrases along the way.

Presenter: Razi Ahmad, University of Kansas

The Polish Perspective

Cultural competency is the key to avoiding miscommunication with others. In this session, we will examine how cultural differences between everyday life in Poland and America could cause misunderstandings in communication, as well as practice some key Polish phrases!

Presenter: Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozyova, University of Kansas

Russian Fairy Tales

What do you know about the magical forests of Russia and the creatures who inhabit it? Come find out who inhabits a hut on chicken legs, where a grey wolf can take you, and whose life is at the end of a needle. Most importantly, you will learn how to survive in this world!

Presenter: Tatiana Scanlan, University of Kansas

The Seal of Biliteracy

The Seal of Biliteracy certifies proficiency in two or more world languages, which can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices. Find out about the academic, economic, social, and health benefits of being multilingual.

Presenter: Regina Peszat, Kansas Department of Education

Senegalese Yassa

Let's cook Chicken Yassa together! Yassa is a popular dish in Senegal, it may consist of tender chicken, fish or your choice of meat marinated in an amazing onion-lemon-vinegar mixture. The end result is a beautiful and savory sauce with chicken over rice.

Presenter: Marie Correa-Fernandes, University of Kansas

South American Cowboys

Did you know that cowboys are not exclusive to the United States? Come explore the world of the gauchos and huasos of Argentina and Chile and discover the similarities and differences between North American and South American cowboys.

Presenter: Julie Henderson, Wichita State University

Spanish Dialects through Tongue Twisters

In this session, we will practice elements of different Spanish dialects through tongue twisters. As we attempt these fun sayings, we will introduce basic phonology (the patterns of speech sounds) and phonetics (how sounds are produced). Probable side effects are laughter and a numb tongue.

Presenter: Grant Moss, Pittsburg State University

Spanish around the United States

Spanish in the United States or Spanish of the United States? Explore different varieties of Spanish spoken around the US through videos depicting America's most common Spanish dialects.

Presenter: Rosa Maria Castaneda, Fort Hays State University

A Summer in Ukraine

Learn some rudimentary language and culture skills that KU students have found essential for surviving a summer abroad in Ukraine: three key phrases to buy your morning coffee, three street signs to recognize, and three cultural rules on attending the Lviv opera and ballet.

Presenter: Oleksandra Wallo, University of Kansas

Ten German Phrases We Should All Be Using

"I think I spider." "You're walking on my cookie." "Close the lid, the monkey is dead!" Come learn some of the most common and unique German idioms that will set you apart from the crowd – and allow you to express yourself like never before!

Presenter: Ljudmila Bilkić, University of Kansas

Urban Africa

The continent of Africa encompasses much more than safaris and wildlife! From Kinshasa to Cairo, learn about megacities' cosmopolitan centers, including artistic, musical, and culinary scenes you don't want to miss.

Presenter: Margaret Wilcox, University of Kansas

What You Need to Know about the Hebrew Language

Hebrew is one of the oldest languages spoken today. It is the original language of the first five books of Moses and is the official language of the state of Israel. Come learn a few phrases and leave with your name spelled out in the Hebrew alphabet!

Presenter: Shelley Rissien, University of Kansas

A Wolof Welcome!

Greetings are very important in Senegalese culture; they show respect toward elders and create harmony among peers and strangers alike. Greetings are part of Senegalese "Teraanga" which means hospitality, generosity, and any act of kindness to make a guest feel welcome. Please join us!

Presenter: Marie Correa-Fernandes, University of Kansas