Why Learn A World Language?

♦ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.

♦ According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you boost decision-making skills.

♦ Students who study world languages score higher on standardized tests, as a study from York University in Toronto showed.

Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.

♦ Knowledge of a world language increases your chances of landing a good job, as demonstrated in a recent poll of The Economist.

An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.

♦ Learning a second language has compelling health benefits, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.

Contact Us:

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For more information regarding Majors, Minors, courses, and other available resources in this language:

Dhar India Studies Program
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Why Study Bengali?

Bengali is the second most widely spoken language in South Asia, and is the national language of Bangladesh as well as one of the official languages of India. It is the sole language that can boast of sparking a revolution and the subsequent formation of a new nation.

Knowing Bengali opens the door to a whole vista of rich cultural material that is both traditional and contemporary, from the mystical Buddhist cāryagītī, the 16th-17th century maṛgalaṅkāya epics, a vast body of devotional literature, to the works of Rabindranath Tagore, Asia’s first Nobel laureate, and contemporary writers like Enamul Haq and Sunil Gangopadhyay. Filmmaker Satyajit Ray introduced the world to Bengal through his Apu Trilogy, and won a lifetime achievement Oscar.

Bengali is crucial to an understanding of the religious philosophies of Swami Vivekananda and the 15th-16th century figure Chaitanya, and the bhakti (devotional) movement in the region. The Bengali language allows one to simultaneously explore ancient traditions and appreciate a community of people who hold on to their values but at the same time are eager to explore new paths.

Who speaks Bengali?
Over 200 million people! Most of whom live in Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal, though there are significant Bengali émigré communities around the world, too. Bengalis take pride in their image as poets and artists and are equally involved in all other walks of life.

IUB is one of only two universities in the entire Midwest, and the only one in Indiana, offering Bengali language instruction. Students can use Bengali to satisfy their foreign language requirement, and we offer three full years of Bengali.

Take a Bengali class!
Contact the Dhar India Studies Program:
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Learning everyday phrases:

- Welcome: নিবেদন (shagotom)
- Greeting (to a Hindu): নমস্কার (nomoskhar)
- Greeting (to a Muslim): ও আসালামালকুম (o assalamaekum)
- What is your name?: আপনার নাম কি? (apnar nam ki?)
- My name is __: আমার নাম __ (amar nam _)
- Where are you from?: আপনি কোথা থেকে এসেছেন? (apni kotha theke eshechhen?)
- I’m from ___: আমি ___ থেকে I (ami ... theke)

Languages

Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

Akan/Twi | Korean
American Sign Lang | Kurdish
Arabic | Kyrgyz
Avestan | Lakota
Azerbaijani | Latin
Bamana | Macedonian
Bengali | Mongolian
Bosnian/Croatian/ | Norwegian
Serbian | Old Church Slavonic
Catalan | Pashto
Chinese | Persian
Czech | Polish
Dari | Portuguese
Dutch | Quechua
Egyptian (Demotic) | Romanian
Egyptian (Middle) | Russian
ESL | Sanskrit
Estonian | Spanish
Finnish | Swahili
French | Tajik
Georgian | Thai
German | Tibetan
German (Old High) | Turkish (Ottoman)
Greek (Classical) | Turkish
Greek (Modern) | Turkmen
Haitian Creole | Ukrainian
Hausa | Urdu
Hebrew (Biblical) | Uyghur
Hebrew (Modern) | Uzbek
Hindi | Wolof
Hungarian | Yiddish
Indonesian | Yoruba
Italian | Yucatec Maya
Japanese | Zulu
Kazakh