

Summer houses promote language study

by Linda Larson

Ever heard that if you want to learn French, you'd better go to France? If money is short, summer language houses at UNL offer an alternative.

German and French language houses will operate during the first summer session, June 5-July 12.

These are intensive language programs which involve "total immersion in the language," according to D.E. Allison, chairman of the Germanic and Slavic languages department. Students will earn six hours credit by "spending their time insofar as possible in a French or German speaking environment."

Activities include special classes in the mornings, drill and practice sessions in the afternoons, and films, visiting lecturers and other group activities in the evenings.

Residential facilities are provided so students can eat and live together, Allison said. "Conversation in courses and in informal situations will help them gain accuracy, fluency and ease in self-expression."

The program keeps students "busy from morning until bedtime," he said. "It is designed for students with two years of language in high school or one year in college who are anxious to gain fluency in the language."

However, some outstanding applicants with only one year of the language in high school may be accepted, he added.

The six hours credit will, in most cases, complete the language requirement for the College of Arts and Sciences, Allison said.

"Generally speaking, people who take these courses enjoy the work so much that they go on and take more," he added.

Gerard Gardin, French instructor and coordinator of the French language house, said many students taking the course last summer were just fulfilling their requirements. But many have gone on in the language, he added.

"I was entirely free to do what I wanted" with the language house, he said. "I decided to stress spoken French."

There is an emphasis on reading and culture in language courses here, the French exchange professor said. Teaching is routine and is considered a chore that must be done in order to approach the teaching of literature, he said.

Students are more interested in how the people live in foreign countries than in the historical perspective, Gardin said.

"Learning a foreign language is a psychological process. It can only be mastered through conversation," he said.

Class length limits conversation, Gardin said. If a student speaks the language for two minutes a class period he is only speaking three to four hours a year, he explained.

The language only "becomes active when you go abroad. When you go to France you will speak more French in a day than you have in a year here."

In the French house the activities of conversation and composition can be separated, Gardin said, because several professors work with the students.

He said the basic courses taught last year included grammar, a course beginning in pronunciation, and phonetics and working toward conversation.

At first the students were a bit lost, Gardin said. Many people were speaking the language and in the beginning students didn't understand much. But this is the situation they'd meet if they went to France, he said.

Elizabeth Saunders, a senior minoring in German, participated in the German House last summer and said it was a good experience.

"You really begin to feel the language after a while," she said. "I learned an awful lot."



1:30 p.m. Speaker Carlos Guerra; Union Ballroom.
3:30 p.m. Speaker Manuel Fierro.
5-7 p.m. Mexican Dinner sponsored by the High School Equivalency Program; Harvest Room, Union.
7:30-10 p.m. Chicano Ballet de Aztlan; East Campus Union.
Films running continuously in Union Lounge—"Tijerina" and "Requiem 29."

Saturday, April 22

1-5 p.m. La Raza Coalition Meeting; Centennial Room, Union.
6-8 p.m. S Lazars, music; South Crib.
7 p.m.-1 a.m. "Los Viverones" dance; East Campus Union.
Films running continuously in the Union Lounge, "I am Joaquin."

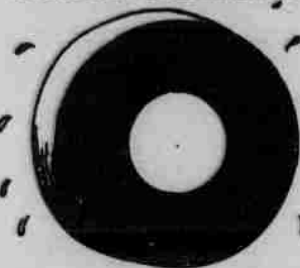
Friday, April 21

10:30 a.m. Speakers Eduardo Guerra and Marclano Brionez; Union Ballroom.

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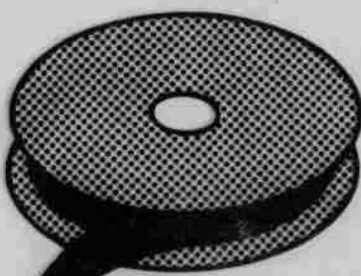


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Friday

- 7:45 a.m. Nebraska Union—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship
- 9 a.m. Union—Panhellenic Conference
- 9:30 a.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week news conference
- 10 a.m. Union—Panhellenic Conference
- 10:30 a.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week "Eduardo Guerra, Marclano Brionez"
- 11:30 a.m. Union—Muslim Student Association
- 12:30 p.m. Union—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship
- 1:30 p.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week "Carlos Guerra"
- 1:30 p.m. Union—Panhellenic Conference
- 2:30 p.m. Sheldon Art Gallery—Theodore Johnson "Proust and Turner"
- 3:30 p.m. Union—Jazz and Java "Western Thrills"
- 3:30 p.m. Union—Student Tribunal
- 3:30 p.m. Union—Citizens for Environmental Improvement
- 3:30 p.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week "Manuel Fierro"
- 4:30 p.m. Union—ASUN Legislative Liaison Committee
- 5 p.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Union—Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship
- 7:30 p.m. East Campus Union—"Chicano Ballet de Aztlan" Chicano Awareness Week
- 8, 10 p.m. Union—Weekend Film "A man and a Woman"

Saturday

- 1 p.m. Union—La Raza Coalition meeting
- 6 p.m. Union—Chicano Awareness Week "S Lazars"
- 7 p.m. East Campus Union—Chicano Awareness Week "Los Viverones"
- 8, 10 p.m. Union—Weekend Film "A Man and a Woman"

Sunday

- 3:30 p.m. International House—Coffeehouse
- 8:00 p.m. Union—Miss University of Nebraska/Miss Lincoln Pageant

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Sheldon Gallery - 3, 7, 9 p.m.