

## **Portuguese 402 and 403**

### **Rationale for proposing these two courses**

Portuguese 402 and 403, the courses that we are proposing, are designed for students who have finished the basic and intermediate Portuguese language sequence (101-104 or 501-502). The former is an entirely new course. The latter is a changed course. Formerly taught at the 200 level (as Portuguese 202), it has been clear for some time that because of the relative difficulty of the course, it is more appropriately offered at the 400 level.

Each one of the two courses targets specific language skills that students must develop in order to acquire basic competence in the language. The goal of Portuguese 402 is to develop students' ability to listen and read in Portuguese, while the goal of Portuguese 403 is to enhance students' ability to write and speak in the language. Together with the existing 401 (presently being modified in both title and content to achieve a focus on Portuguese grammar), 402 and 403 will allow our students to be able to achieve basic proficiency in the Portuguese language and to pursue advanced studies in Portuguese linguistics or in Portuguese literature and culture. Since each one of the three courses specified focuses on different language skills, the order in which the student takes them is variable. This permits the Department to serve all students who want to take higher level classes, regardless of the quarter in which they finish the basic/intermediate sequence. This will make our major and minor programs much more comprehensive and flexible, thus contributing to attracting more students to our programs.

The demand for professionals with knowledge of Portuguese has been growing in the US in the recent years, especially in the Midwest, due to the increasing immigration of Portuguese speakers to this area of the country. With the inclusion of these courses in our program, students who major or minor in Portuguese will find themselves better prepared both to achieve success in their further academic work and in whatever future career they might choose.