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NEWS RELEASE

(for immediate release)

Language learners interested in French, German or Spanish now have a choice of beginning-level courses at Cariboo College, depending on their objectives and their available study time, according to College Modern Languages Chairperson Yves Merzisen.

"We have instituted a dual system for language beginners based on a successful pilot experience last year," Dr. Merzisen said.

For people who may want a solid background in the target language, who are aiming for eventual fluency or who want university credits, the recommended courses are still French 50, Spanish 111 and German 111.

French 50 is an evening course leading in the following year to French 110, which carries university transfer credit. French 110 itself, offered in both day and evening sections, is intended for those with background equivalent to secondary school French 11. The Spanish and German courses, given in the morning, are equivalent to first-year university courses.

"But for people who want to get just a taste of the desired language, pick up enough to get around in Europe or Quebec, or have limited time for homework," Dr. Merzisen said, "I would recommend the courses numbered 30. These courses, all given one evening a week, are available in French, German, Spanish and Italian."

These very basic courses, he explained, are also designed to overcome the psychological difficulties which many students encounter: embarrassment in using the language, mental blocks to understanding it when spoken, pressure of examinations.

Most language courses offered at the College try to keep a balance among the four basic language skills: speaking, writing, comprehension and reading. Many of the courses use audio-visual aids, such as tapes, films and slides.

The major difference between the 30-level courses and the more intensive beginning courses is in the pace required and in the amount of homework, Dr. Merzisen pointed out. Students who find the course they enrolled in either too demanding or not challenging enough can switch to another level during the first two weeks of classes.

Formal and informal tests are available to help students decide which courses are best suited to their needs and backgrounds. Dr. Merzisen invited those with questions about the program to telephone him at 374-0123 for further details.

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