

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Important Dates for Spring 2022

First Day of Classes

10 January

Department Meetings

4 Feb, 8 Apr

SHBS Meetings

21 Jan, 18 Feb, 18 Mar

Full Faculty Meetings

25 Feb, 29 Apr

Academic Holidays

17 Jan, 28 Feb-4 Mar, 15 &
18 Apr

HPU Honors Day

12 April

Last Day of Classes

27 April

Exams

29 April-5 May

Commencement

7 May



Italian Studies Highlights

Italian Studies minor **Gianna Schiavo** was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to pursue her research in Sicily in the summer of 2022. While abroad, she will engage in a research project with her faculty mentor, **Dr. Tessa Gurney**, in which she investigates the practice of *caporalato*, or the illegal exploitation of vulnerable workers in the agricultural sector by Italian agromafias.

Students from Dr. Gurney's Italian for Business class participated in the Casa della Cultura Italiana's conference on Italian Innovation and Technology at the NC Food Innovation Lab in Charlotte (pictured above), and a whopping thirty-two students have been selected to participate in HPU's Faculty-led Maymester program in Siracusa, Sicily in 2022 with Dr. Gurney and **Dr. Anna Love**.

Student Announcements

◆ The **Latin American Student Organization (LASO)** hosted several events throughout the semester to promote and celebrate Latin American culture. These included a Día de los Muertos conversation on why the holiday is essential for Hispanic culture and how people from different countries celebrate it; Comida Hispana, a collaboration with **Lambda Pi Chi** and **SGA**, in which participants learned about traditional dishes from a variety of Hispanic countries; and an Aguas Frescas Social, where students learned about and tried conventional drinks from Hispanic cultures, such as “Agua de horchata” and “Batidos y refrescos.”



◆ Students from **Spanish for the Medical Professions (SPN 2141)** partnered with the **Community Clinic of High Point** to complete their service-learning hours for the Fall 2021 semester. Their responsibilities at the clinic were varied and included triaging patients, making patient appointment reminder phone calls, translating medical forms, working at the flu clinic, assisting with eligibility interviews, and other necessary administrative tasks. The students were able to put to use their Spanish-language skills and course content knowledge while at the clinic. Through their time there they gained an appreciation of how a non-profit clinic operates and of its work to address disparities that exist in health care. The course is taught by **Carolyn Adams**.

◆ Congratulations to two of our December 2021 graduates, Spanish minors **Arianna Denn-Thiele** and **Nia Rainer**. During their time at HPU, Denn-Thiele served as president of the Spanish Club and Rainer was president of Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority Inc. Both alumnae will continue at HPU as students in the M.A. in Communication and Business Leadership Program. When asked to share her advice for other HPU students, International-Business major Denn-Thiele declared, “Without a doubt, I would highly encourage them to study another language at HPU. In today's world, it's important to stand out in the job-seeking sector. Almost every job recruiter I have interviewed with has highlighted that I would be a great addition to the organization primarily because I can speak to Spanish-speaking customers and help expand their market.”



◆ **Madison Hinson**, the recipient of 2019 Nathaniel Yarborough Award for outstanding minor in Chinese (pictured left), was accepted into the Wake Forest School of Medicine Class of 2026. Congratulations, Madison!

Professional Announcements

- ◆ Assistant Professor of French **Denis Dépinoy** presented the paper “Between Individual Creation and Collective Organization: The Impossible Situation of Today’s French Bande Dessinée Authors” at the 2021 South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) Conference.
- ◆ **Tessa Gurney**, Assistant Professor of Italian, presented the paper “Representing Diversity and Fostering Global Citizenry with News in Slow Italian” at the Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages and Literatures (SECCLL) in October. At HPU, Dr. Gurney was elected Chair of the Global Studies committee, and, together with **Amanda Allen** (History), and **Joey Fink** (History), she received a President’s Faculty-Student Engagement Grant to escort students of History, Italian, and Women’s and Gender Studies to Giuseppe Verdi’s opera *Aida* in Charlotte in the spring.
- ◆ **Benoît Leclercq**, Assistant Professor of French, presented his paper "No idling! De la fonction des parenthèses narratives dans *Les Misérables* de Victor Hugo" on September 23rd at the 2021 Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures (SECCLL).
- ◆ Join us in welcoming **Anna Love**! As Assistant Professor of Italian, Dr. Love (pictured below) will teach all levels of Italian and enrich the program’s vast menu of extracurricular activities.
- ◆ **Daliang Wang**, Chair and Associate Professor of Chinese, presented a paper entitled “An Experiment on Teaching Chinese Characters Effectively” at the 26th International Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) Conference at Pacific Lutheran University in Seattle in October. During the conference, Dr. Wang was also appointed as the Executive Vice President and remained as the Treasurer for the organization.
- ◆ Finally, thank you to the following adjunct instructors for their vital work in completing another successful semester of language learning at HPU: **Carmen Calhoun** (Spanish), **Anika Gray** (Spanish),



Deborah Hill (ESL),
Monika Sierkowska
 (German and French), and
Kevin Torres (Spanish and
 French).

