

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Pittsburgh



The Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Language Program

The language most commonly referred to as “Serbo-Croatian” is one of the most colorful Slavic languages of the Balkans. Spoken in different varieties by the people of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, it represents a diverse melange of cultures found in the region. While studying BCS here at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh, one will be exposed not only to an interesting linguistic situation but also one of rich cultural tradition.

At the University of Pittsburgh, students learn the distinct dialectal and lexical differences between the three primary versions of Serbo-Croatian. Although largely comprehensible among all three nationalities, Serbo-Croatian has distinct flavors that reflect the unique cultural traits of the respective countries:

In Croatia, the language is referred to as Croatian.
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is referred to as Bosnian.
In Serbia and Montenegro, it is referred to as Serbian.

Why study Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian?

What better way to learn not only about an interesting linguistic development, but also about history and tradition? This particular section of the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro) serves as the perfect ground for the study of cultural and geographical influence on language as well as the indivisible association of language with national identity. Students of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian are exposed to diverse societies proud of their respective histories, customs, and languages.

One of the several other benefits of studying Serbo-Croatian is employment opportunities in—among others—the research, business, and government sectors. Learning a language is much more than learning a method of communication. It is also an experience that opens one’s eyes to the diverse world in which we live. The people of the Balkan region are very proud of their rich history, culture, and language. Individuals of this heritage will have the opportunity to discover traditions and customs of the respective countries and what makes each language distinct and special.

Each of these languages plays an important role in shaping the culture among people in the United States with Bosnian/Croatian or Serbian heritage.

Courses at the University of Pittsburgh

The Slavic Department at the University of Pittsburgh offers one of the most comprehensive language programs in the country, including courses in:

Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
Intermediate B/C/S
Advanced B/C/S

Each level begins in the Fall semester and lasts for two semesters, or the entire academic year.

B/C/S AT PITT			
	<i>Elementary</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
<i>Fall semester</i>	SerCro 0010	SerCro 0030	SerCro 0400
<i>Spring semester</i>	SerCro 0020	SerCro 0040	SerCro 0410

* While learning B/C/S, students will be expected to use both the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets, both of which are commonly used today.

In addition to taking B/C/S classes during the academic year, students at the University of Pittsburgh have the opportunity to continue perfecting their language skills during the summer program at the Summer Language Institute (SLI): <http://sli.slavic.pitt.edu/>.

Intensive Elementary B/C/S – 6 weeks
Intensive Intermediate B/C/S – 6 weeks
Intensive Advanced B/C/S – 6 weeks

Intensive Mastery Advanced B/C/S – 5 weeks in Belgrade, Sarajevo & Zagreb + 1 week in Pittsburgh

Instructor of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian

Ljiljana Duraskovic – ljiljana@pitt.edu

On-Campus Resources

BCS Language Table

All are welcome to attend these weekly discussion sessions to practice and maintain their skills in the BCS language. Meetings are Thursdays at Kiva Han on Craig St./ Forbes starting at 5pm.