Mann studies French and French culture in the modern world

Only a few decades ago French was the preferred language of American high school students studying foreign languages. This has changed significantly in the new millennium, especially for most students. But does this fact mean that French has lost its relevance to today’s world? Someone who thinks not is Debbie Mann, a professor in the departments of foreign languages and literature and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s French program.

"I think you just find a subject and a way that you speak and you feel more comfortable with it," said Mann, who has studied French in high school and has two daughters who are studying French in high school. She said she has grown up in a French-speaking household or have any other links to French culture.

"I just grew up speaking French at home and you find the culture congenial and you enjoy it," Mann said.

French is one of the most widespread languages in the world, spoken in over 50 countries and by more than 200 million people. It is also the official language of some countries where the language is not the mother tongue, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Belgium. While the language is not spoken by everyone, it is learned by millions of people as a second language.

"It’s a language that people use to communicate with each other," Mann said. "I think it’s important to learn about the culture and the language."

Mann said she has studied French and French culture in the modern world. She has a master's degree in French literature and linguistics, and a doctorate from the University of Florida. She has taught at the University of Georgia, and her master's and doctorate are in French literature and linguistics.

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