

# DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

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## Professors

- Frederick de Armas
- Mark Payne

## Associate Professors

- Sascha Ebeling
- Hoda El Shakry
- Leah Feldman
- Rachel Galvin
- Na'ama Rokem
- David Wray

## Assistant Professors

- Anna Elena Torres
- Kris Trujillo

## Department Administrator

- Gaby Choi

The Department of Comparative Literature promotes the multidisciplinary, historically self-reflective and cross-cultural study of texts, traditions, and discourses. The department offers students the opportunity to grapple in a rigorous way with the most pressing issues in literary studies today, such as the questioning of national and cultural boundaries and identities; the struggle over literature's epistemological, ethical, or social authority; the debate about what counts as literature, and why; and the interaction between literature and other cultural or intellectual practices. To that end, the department works with every student individually to arrange a course of studies fitted to their background and scholarly interests. Students may choose from courses offered by the department, as well as those offered by other departments in the Division of the Humanities and in some cases those offered by other divisions. Since we place particular emphasis on reading texts in their original language, all students are expected to develop the highest possible competence in the languages they work with. Students generally use their first years (the time period leading to the Master's degree) to explore areas of interest and to strengthen their language competence.

## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

The objective of the program is the Ph.D. degree. Doctoral students in the program are eligible for an M.A. degree after completing the following requirements: a program of eight graduate level courses (one full academic year), all of which must be taken for a letter grade; the required two-quarter Introduction to Comparative Literature sequence; and demonstrated competence (high proficiency in a graduate literature course or high pass in a University examination) in two foreign languages. The remaining six quarter courses are normally divided among two literatures, although a student may, with the Department's permission, place greater emphasis on one literature or on some special disciplinary interest. Satisfactory completion of the M.A. requirements will be based on a student's grade record and performance in the required two-quarter sequence.

## THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In spring quarter of their first year of study, students are required to submit to the DGS a portfolio of no less than three papers written in their first two quarters in the program. The DGS will circulate these papers to the faculty of the department as a whole ahead of the year-end review of graduate student progress. These papers should demonstrate the student's ability to write scholarly prose, to formulate a clear research argument, and to situate it within the context of secondary literature relevant to the topic. They must be submitted by the third week of the spring quarter of the first year. The papers may be written for courses outside the department. After the year-end review, the DGS will report to the student feedback from the faculty on the papers submitted and suggestions for the development of their research and writing.

Please note that all required courses in the PhD must be taken for a quality letter grade (not pass/fail).

Before the student is recommended for admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree, they must pass satisfactorily a written and oral examination by their committee, only after completion of the PhD coursework (16 courses).

## Language Requirements

High proficiency in two foreign languages demonstrated by passing a graduate literature course in the language (and approval by the instructor) **or** a high pass (P+) on the Graduate Reading Exam (<https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/arca/>) proctored by the Chicago Language Center. (<https://languages.uchicago.edu/>) At least one high proficiency language should be confirmed in the first year. The remaining requirements must be completed before the student is admitted to candidacy.

Students should also be working towards native fluency in the language of their major literature by applying to studying abroad, only after exhausting UChicago language offerings. Funding for language study depends on the language and on the student's immigration status; please review the Humanities Division (<https://humanities.uchicago.edu/>) and UChicago Grad (<https://grad-uchicago-csm.symplicity.com/>) websites for more detailed information and policies.

Registration for the language exam (for which a High Pass is required) can be found on the Graduate Reading Exam (<https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/arca/>) page. The exam is proctored by the Chicago Language Center (<https://languages.uchicago.edu/>) where you can find more resources on language certificates, courses, and the schedule for language exams.

## DISSERTATION

Before entering candidacy, students will be asked to present and discuss their dissertation proposals at a proposal hearing attended by their dissertation committee and other interested faculty. After entering candidacy, students will participate in a dissertation proposal presentation, normally in their fifth year, in which they will discuss with their dissertation committee the current state of the dissertation and outline their plans and schedule for further progress. Students are strongly urged to join appropriate workshops and present dissertation chapters on a regular basis to such workshops. After satisfying the above requirements, the candidate is expected to pursue independent research under the direction of a member of the faculty culminating in the writing of a doctoral dissertation. Candidates conclude their studies by successfully defending their dissertation in a final oral examination.

For additional information about the Comparative Literature Graduate Program, please visit <https://complit.uchicago.edu/graduate/program>.

## APPLICATION

The department requires a writing sample of no more than 15-20 pages, usually a critical essay written during the student's college years.

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in Humanities is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department specific information is available on their website (<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.eduhttp://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/>).

Questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to [humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu](mailto:humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu) or (773) 702-1552. Our application process is entirely online. Please do not send any materials in hard copy. All materials should be submitted through the online application (<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/apply-now/>).

International students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). (Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application.) For more information, please see the Office of International Affairs website (<https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/>), or call them at (773) 702-7752.

## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE COURSES

### CMLT 30123. *Orientalism*. 100 Units.

In 1978, Edward Said transformed "Orientalism" from a somewhat innocent term for a fascination with the cultures of the Orient into a label for a "discursive formation" that systematically objectified, essentialized, and distorted the non-West in the service of Western ideology and power. His intervention provoked a number of responses: some critiqued the critique, on empirical or theoretical grounds; some extended his analysis, which was based primarily on the Middle East, to other "Orients"; some argued that his critique did not go far enough. We will examine Said's *Orientalism*, some important precursors in the critique of Orientalist knowledge, and a selection of responses to Said's work, with a focus on theoretical questions. Why do the overarching structures of knowledge change so slowly when it comes to the non-West, and why, at the same time, does "knowledge" about the non-West appear so compromised when we examine it a century or so after it is produced? What are the rules of the "discursive formation" Said claimed to have identified? On what basis can a critique of an entire "way of knowing" be justified and undertaken? How does *Orientalism* reframe the Baconian cliché that "knowledge is power"? In the end, what is the epistemic and political status of "knowledge of the non-West"?

Instructor(s): Andrew Ollett Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): SALC 20123, CMLT 20123, SALC 30123

**CMLT 30210. Narrative Doubles. 100 Units.**

Dostoevsky's early novel "The Double" leads the readers on a descent into the madness of the main character as his double takes over his life. From uncanny usurpers to empathic gateways into alternative identities, in this course doubles teach us about our selves. We will consider how narratives conceptualize the human self and its reality, and how they conjure alternatives. We also ask about the political power of these alternative selves and doubling temporalities - from subversive possibilities to dystopian political nostalgias.

Equivalent Course(s): REES 20210, REES 30210, CMLT 20210

**CMLT 30230. Iconology East and West. 100 Units.**

Iconology is the study of images across media and cultures. It is also associated with philosophical reflections on the nature of images and their relation to language-the interplay between the "icon" and the "logos." A plausible translation of this compound word into Chinese would describe it as "Words in Pictures, Pictures in Words": ## #####. This seminar will explore the relations of word and image in poetics, semiotics, and aesthetics with a particular emphasis on how texts and pictures have been understood in the Anglo-European-American and Chinese theoretical traditions. The interplay of painting and poetry, speech and spectacle, audition and vision will be considered across a variety of media, particularly the textual and graphic arts. The aims of the course will be 1) to critique the simplistic oppositions between "East" and "West" that have bedevilled intercultural and intermedial comparative studies; 2) to identify common principles, zones of interaction and translation that make this a vital area of study. (Theory; 20th/21st)

Instructor(s): WJT Mitchell Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in the course will be with the consent of instructor; it is open to students at all levels, but enrollment will be limited to 15. Students should send a one page statement of their interest to W. J. T.

Mitchell (wjtm@uchicago.edu)

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 20033, ENGL 20230, ARTV 30033, ARTH 30033, CMLT 20230, ENGL 30230, ARTV 20033

**CMLT 30711. Jewish Graphic Narrative: Between Memory and Caricature. 100 Units.**

This course explores the history of comics through the lens of its Jewish creators and Jewish themes, and the history of Jewish culture and society through the lens of graphic storytelling. We learn to interpret this complex art form that combines words and hand-drawn images, translating temporal progression into a spatial form. Reading American, European, and Israeli narratives, our discussions will focus on autobiographical and journalistic accounts of uprooting, immigration, conflict, and loss. We will ask: how do Jewish graphic novelists use the conventions and the grammar of this medium? How do they grapple with the proximity between caricature and comics, and with the legacy of racist caricatures? And what is the relationship between graphic narrative and memory culture? A central concept or figure we will keep returning to is the face, which is a central element in the aesthetics of comics and graphic narrative, and a key to its meaning-making.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 26062, SIGN 26062, JWSC 20701, CMLT 20711, NEHC 26062

**CMLT 31222. Aeschylus' Oresteia: drama and democracy. 100 Units.**

Ancient Greek drama in the 5th c. BCE both maps and reckons with the constitutive tensions in the polis between residual (but still influential) aristocratic norms and practices and the newly dominant (but still evolving) democratic ethos and ideals- its practices institutionalized in the assembly, the magistracies, and the courts. Aeschylus' Oresteia represents and contributes to that debate, as it explores (among other things) the fortunes of the house of Atreus, the making of the polis, gender trouble, questions of kinship, revenge and its impasses, institutions of justice. This trilogy helps us understand crucial aspects of the society that produced it and also invites us to reflect on the ways ancient literature informs how we think about ourselves and our predicaments now-political, familial, and existential. And the Oresteia further invites us to think about the uses and possibilities of theater, then and now. No knowledge of Greek is required for this course, but there will be assignment options for those who wish to do the reading in Greek. This course will meet twice weekly for 3 hours during the 1st five weeks of the quarter, from March 24 to April 23.

Instructor(s): Laura Slatkin Terms Offered: Spring. Spring 2025

Prerequisite(s): Instructor's consent is required for undergraduates. No knowledge of Greek is required for this course, but there will be assignment options for those who wish to do the reading in Greek. Requirements: weekly readings; response paper for each class meeting (as of 1/13, posted on Canvas); 15 min. oral report; final paper.

Note(s): This course will meet two times per week for 3 hours, during the 1st five weeks of the quarter, from March 24 to April 23.

Equivalent Course(s): GREK 24714, SETH 31222, FNLD 21222, GREK 34717

**CMLT 31505. Mourning and Struggle in African, Native American, and Palestinian Narratives. 100 Units.**

In this course, we will explore themes spanning three diverse bodies of literature and film, identifying points of connection and difference between expressions of sorrow and resistance in African, Native American, and Palestinian works. We focus on portrayals of mourning and examine how in response to catastrophic experiences and histories of colonialism, writers and filmmakers narrate loss and trauma. We will investigate how these authors renegotiate their identities, how they fashion national and political imaginaries, and how they envision alternative futures. Together, we will analyze source materials related to the themes of violence, memory, gender, and race. Through our weekly assignments and discussions, we will seek to determine the tropes and aesthetic tools that ignite modes of storytelling, and to answer: how do writers and artists employ aesthetic form to portray catastrophes? How might expressions of grief also be mobilized for resistance and struggle? Our class

will be organized into three modules, touching upon African, Native American, and Palestinian prose, poetry, and film alongside theoretical works in memory and trauma studies. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to develop their own complex evaluations of these narratives and recognize how comparisons through artistic expression can be a powerful tool for amplifying a multiplicity of stories about mourning and defiance.

Instructor(s): Stephanie Kraver Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 21500, NEHC 31500, GLST 21500, CMLT 21505, RDIN 21500, RDIN 31500

**CMLT 31815. Strange Lit: Estrangement and Literature. 100 Units.**

This course explores the genre of the strange, weird, bizarre and wondrous in literary works from around the world and across various time periods. In contrast to the voyeuristic and expected othering of the 'exotic', the course interrogates the strange as an aesthetic mode that estranges the reader and disturbs and upends our familiar and predictable worlds. Theorists have explored art's ability to unsettle our automatized perception, interrogating our relationship to reality, the way we know things, and the basis on which we make assumptions. This course will trace how specific literary forms (like magical-realism, fantasy, sci-fi, miracle literature, comedy/dark comedy, and even scripture) evoke wonder and a sense of the strange. We will explore how these genres mystify and make strange things like the individual, society, modernity, the nation-state, the secular, economy, and more to unearth the myth-making inherent in processes of world-building, as well as in narrative. We will see ghosts in court, hallucinating nation-states, dead narrators, animated-inanimate objects as we move into the world of dreams, madness, and the supernatural in literary works from Iceland, Iran, Palestine, Japan, Egypt and more.

Instructor(s): Rana Ghuloom Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 21815, RLST 26815, ENGL 21815, NEHC 21815

**CMLT 32010. Writing the unspeakable: History, Memory, and Reflection through Literature. 100 Units.**

This workshop will focus on literature as a tool to explore tragic and traumatic events in history, such as wars, genocides, and natural disasters, among others. Through different examples, we will review different poetic and narrative forms that delve into historical and personal memory, remembering, reflecting, and analyzing events that have marked the lives of individuals, communities, and nations. We will discuss how writing can be an effective way of coping with the painful burden of history, helping to heal the wounds of the past, as well as to reflect on the ways in which literature can serve as a way of preserving the memory of the victims of these tragic events, allowing their stories to be told, remembered and honored in order to bring us a little closer to reparation and justice. Keywords: Documentary poetry, experimental poetry, journalistic genre, political poetry, social poetry.

Instructor(s): Carlos Soto Roman

Equivalent Course(s): LACS 32010, CMLT 22010, LACS 22010

**CMLT 32310. Character Study. 100 Units.**

This course offers space to consider in-depth one of the most fundamental, yet tricky aspects of stories: the imagined person, or fictional character. Some of the questions we will ask and try to answer together include: how do characters "work"-what makes successful characterization? How do authors depict characters changing over time yet remaining recognizably who they are? How are characters shaped not only by events in a plot but by the other characters that they interact with? We will investigate these questions across a range of textual genres and media, with a few major themes as our focus: the stability of characters across time or multiple texts (from figures in legend to Sherlock Holmes); character as moral progression or formation; and character relationality. We'll consider the question of "relatability" and why it might (or might not!) matter and examine characters' hierarchical relationships within the plot (e.g., major vs. minor characters, protagonist and sidekick, etc.) and how these intersect with the social hierarchies of these character' worlds. By taking one key aspect of narrative and thinking about it together in sustained, serious, and playful ways, our goal will be to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of how stories meditate on personhood in all its complexity.

Instructor(s): Jane Gordon Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 22310, NEHC 32310, CMLT 22310

**CMLT 32400-32500. History of International Cinema I-II.**

This sequence is required of students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies. Taking these courses in sequence is strongly recommended but not required.

**CMLT 32400. History of International Cinema I: Silent Era. 100 Units.**

This course provides a survey of the history of cinema from its emergence in the mid-1890s to the transition to sound in the late 1920s. We will examine the cinema as a set of aesthetic, social, technological, national, cultural, and industrial practices as they were exercised and developed during this 30-year span. Especially important for our examination will be the exchange of film techniques, practices, and cultures in an international context. We will also pursue questions related to the historiography of the cinema, and examine early attempts to theorize and account for the cinema as an artistic and social phenomenon.

Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 is required. Course is required for students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.

Note(s): For students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies, the entire History of International Cinema three-course sequence must be taken.

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 48500, ARTH 28500, ENGL 48700, ENGL 29300, MADD 18500, CMST 28500, CMLT 22400, ARTH 38500, ARTV 20002, MAPH 33600

**CMLT 32500. History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960. 100 Units.**

The center of this course is film style, from the classical scene breakdown to the introduction of deep focus, stylistic experimentation, and technical innovation (sound, wide screen, location shooting). The development of a film culture is also discussed. Texts include Thompson and Bordwell's *Film History: An Introduction*; and works by Bazin, Belton, Sitney, and Godard. Screenings include films by Hitchcock, Welles, Rossellini, Bresson, Ozu, Antonioni, and Renoir.

Instructor(s): James Lastra Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.

Note(s): CMST 28500/48500 strongly recommended

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 38600, CMST 28600, MAPH 33700, REES 45005, ENGL 48900, ENGL 29600, REES 25005, MADD 18600, CMLT 22500, CMST 48600, ARTH 28600, ARTV 20003

**CMLT 32501. Vico's New Science. 100 Units.**

This course offers a close reading of Giambattista Vico's masterpiece, "The New Science" (1744) - a work that sets out to refute "all opinions hitherto held about the principles of humanity." Vico, who is acknowledged as the most resolute scourge of any form of rationalism, breathed new life into rhetoric, imagination, poetry, metaphor, history, and philology in order to promote in his readers that originary "wonder" and "pathos" which sets human beings on the search for truth. However, Vico argues, the truths that are most available and interesting to us are the ones humanity "authored" by means of its culture and history-creating activities. For this reason the study of myth and folklore as well as archeology, anthropology, and ethnology must all play a role in the rediscovery of man. "The New Science" builds an "alternative philosophy" for a new age and reads like a "novel of formation" recounting the (hi)story of the entire human race and our divine ancestors. In Vico, a prophetic spirit, one recognizes the fulfillment of the Renaissance, the spokesperson of a particular Enlightenment, the precursor of the Kantian revolution, and the forefather of the philosophy of history (Herder, Hegel, and Marx). "The New Science" remained a strong source of inspiration in the twentieth century (Cassirer, Gadamer, Berlin, Joyce, Beckett, etc.) and may prove relevant in disclosing our own responsibilities in postmodernity.

Instructor(s): Rocco Rubini Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Taught in English.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 22900, ITAL 32900, FNLD 21408, CMLT 22501

**CMLT 32515. Reading and Writing Ecological Obsessions. 100 Units.**

In this seminar, we will read short stories, ethnography, philosophy, and cultural/art criticism that obsesses over one ecological thing e.g., petroleum, axolotl, pecans, palm trees, or fungi. We will study how a seemingly simple living or non-living object can be a guide, source, muse, and catalyst for social, political, and cultural knowledge. How do thinkers mix scholarly critique with creative/generative practices like autobiography, ancestral storytelling, and speculative fiction to express the politics of the earth? In a final research paper intersecting literary art, activism, and critique, students will reflect on this question to frame their own ecological obsessions. The course literature will focus on themes like deep time, extractivism, futurity, the nature-culture divide, and the relationships between human and nonhuman life. We will close-read representative modern and contemporary works of ecological obsessions from Julio Cortazar's "Axolotl" to Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Instructor(s): Natalie Cortez Klossner Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 22515, ENGL 22515, CEGU 22515

**CMLT 32688. Race, Gender and Capitalism: Deconstructing and Demystifying Disney. 100 Units.**

TBD

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 22688

**CMLT 32700. Diasporic Literature and Modern Islam in the Imperial Core. 100 Units.**

The 19th century enslaved scholar Omar Ibn Said opens his autobiography with the words: "I cannot write my life." This seminar takes this starting point - the thick of chattel slavery, mercantile capitalism, and colonial violence - to investigate literary productions by racialized others dispersed in and by the so-called era of modernity. We will complicate what constitutes the modernity and how Islam, perhaps more than any other tradition, has been configured as its inverse. We will read works ranging from poetry, novels, short stories, comics, & memoirs as they relate to encounters & engagements particularly with Islam as a religious tradition, colonialism, industrialization, & nationalism, even as global understandings of tradition, genre, & form are being contested & rapidly changing. In addition to primary sources, we will theoretically situate these works within larger discussions of racecraft, oral transmission & culture, "folk" vs. "high" literature, Orientalism, politics, gender, sexuality, & identity. We will look at this is articulated in diasporic literary forms written within -and sometimes for- the imperial core. Through in-class discussions, readings, & a final paper, students will strengthen their global literacy, demonstrate knowledge of global historical trends, analyze the shifting and even contradictory interpretations of the role of religion in racial formations, all while identifying, critiquing & assessing these key course themes.

Instructor(s): Samah Choudhury Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 36717, AASR 36717, RDIN 22700, RLST 26717, CMLT 22705, RDIN 32700, GLST 22710

**CMLT 33301. Balkan Folklore. 100 Units.**

Vampires, fire-breathing dragons, vengeful mountain nymphs. 7/8 and other uneven dance beats, heart-rending laments, and a living epic tradition. This course is an overview of Balkan folklore from historical, political, and anthropological perspectives. We seek to understand folk tradition as a dynamic process and consider the function of different folklore genres in the imagining and maintenance of community and the socialization of the individual. We also experience this living tradition firsthand through visits of a Chicago-based folk dance ensemble, "Balkan Dance."

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 35908, CMLT 23301, ANTH 25908, NEHC 30568, NEHC 20568, REES 29009, REES 39009

**CMLT 33401. The Burden of History: The Nation and Its Lost Paradise. 100 Units.**

What makes it possible for the imagined communities called nations to command the emotional attachments that they do? This course considers some possible answers to Benedict Anderson's question on the basis of material from the Balkans. We will examine the transformation of the scenario of paradise, loss, and redemption into a template for a national identity narrative through which South East European nations retell their Ottoman past. With the help of Žižek's theory of the subject as constituted by trauma and Kant's notion of the sublime, we will contemplate the national fixation on the trauma of loss and the dynamic between victimhood and sublimity.

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): REES 29013, HIST 34005, NEHC 20573, CMLT 23401, NEHC 30573, REES 39013, HIST 24005

**CMLT 33709. The New Socialist Realism. 100 Units.**

Taking the astonishing fiction of Andrei Platonov (1899-1951) as a starting point this course asks: how have realist fictions in general and socialist realism in particular been used to transform material and ideological realities?

Can realism be revolutionary? Can it be dictated by the state? Grounded in historical context, our reading will venture into the afterlife and future of socialist realism. As philosophers across the world reinterpreted Platonov and other Soviet and socialist authors, what appeared to be gaps in intellectual and literary history now seem to be continuities of influence across borders. Reading Shklovsky, Lukács, Jameson, Timofeeva, Malabou and others, this course traces the new and transnational socialist realism. Topics include ideology, gender, community, colonialism and decolonization.

Instructor(s): Ania Aizman Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This is a new graduate and upper-level undergraduate seminar

Equivalent Course(s): REES 33709

**CMLT 33723. Musical Selfhood. 100 Units.**

What sort of subject is the musical self? Within the already brief historical moment of subjectivity in its Western modern shape that is no more than a few hundred years old, an even briefer moment is associated with the idea of a musical subject, a subject or self entirely made up of music. This idea seems of one piece with the idea that music can be pure - or, as it was called at the time, absolute - that it can fully be an end in itself. What does this even mean - that music could be its own end, and that a self could entirely consist of it?

Instructor(s): Florian Klinger Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Discussion in English, readings in English or German. Undergraduates by permission only.

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 33723, MUSI 33722

**CMLT 33819. Narratology of Tears: Goethe, Sterne, and the Sentimental Novel. 100 Units.**

This seminar will, with a certain intensity of focus, examine two masterpieces of the "sentimental" mode:

Laurence Sterne's *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy* (1768) and Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werther* (1774). Since these novels are both generically self-reflective and, each in its own way, boldly experimental, they are well-suited for an analysis oriented toward the theory of narrative. Comparisons will be drawn to passages in Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*, or, *The History of a Young Lady* (1747-8) and Rousseau's *Julie, ou La nouvelle Heloise* (1761). We will also take a forward look at Pierre Choderlos de Laclos' *Liaisons dangereuses* (1782), which may be considered the destruction of the form. In addition to fundamental contributions to narratology, works by Roland Barthes (*Fragments of a Lover's Discourse*), Albrecht Koschorke (*Körperströme und Schriftverkehr. Mediologie des 18. Jahrhunderts*), and James Chandler (*An Archeology of Sympathy. The Sentimental Mode in Literature and Cinema*) will be important points of reference. As always, Schiller's *Über naive und sentimentalische Dichtung* will prove indispensable.

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 33819, SCTH 33819

**CMLT 34305. Exile and Émigré Literature. 100 Units.**

This course navigates the global refugee, exilic, expatriate and émigré crises and experiences as modes of displacement that permeate modern and contemporary literature. Using a comparative approach, this course offers a sustained and nuanced examination of the notion of displacement in most of its forms as represented by many canonical literary works produced by writers of various nations. This course compares the historical, socio-political, economic, cultural and national motives behind the experiences of displacement discussed throughout the course. The main topics covered in this course are: Loss, Alienation and Disorientation, Displacement and



Gender Crossing, Displacement and Imperialistic Gestures, Displacement and Mobility, Displacement and Self-fashioning, Acts of Departure: Roots and Routes, Home-Abroad Dichotomy, Displacement, Memory and the Narrative/Poetic Imagination, Displacement and Individual/ National Identity, Abjection and Assimilation, Cross-Cultural Psychology and Dialogical Acculturation, The Crisis of Acceptance and Belonging, Biopolitics and Zoopolitics, The American Dream and Otherness.

Instructor(s): Ahmad Qabaha Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 24305, NEHC 24305, ENGL 23434, RDIN 24305, ENGL 33434, NEHC 34305, RDIN 34305

**CMLT 34723. Philosophical Anthropology: Origins of the Human. 100 Units.**

What makes us human? What is our place in the cosmos? What common condition unites us as a species across race, gender, and ethnicity? In this course, we will explore these questions through the lens of twentieth-century German thinkers who placed the human being at the center of philosophical inquiry. Seeking an alternative to both religious and scientific accounts, the philosophers Max Scheler, Arnold Gehlen, and Helmut Plessner developed new conceptions of the human that sought to do justice to both our spiritual and our biological being. We will take an historical approach to this intellectual movement, considering how philosophers such as Herder, Kant, and Nietzsche laid the groundwork for a reevaluation of who we are. In the conviction that literature also plays a vital role in formulating a philosophical anthropology, we will also consider several poets, in particular Friedrich Hölderlin and Rainer Maria Rilke. All texts will be read in English translation.

Instructor(s): Simon Friedland Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 24723, GRMN 34723, CMLT 24723

**CMLT 34801. Poetics. 100 Units.**

In this course, we will study poetry 'in the abstract'. We will study various efforts on the part of philosophers, literary critics, and poets themselves to formulate theories of poetic discourse. We will examine a range of historical attempts to conceptualize poetry as a particular kind of language practice, from Greek, Chinese, and Indic antiquity to the present. (18th/19th, 20th/21st)

Instructor(s): TBD Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 34800, MAPH 34800

**CMLT 35137. Writing the unspeakable. History, Memory, and Reflection through Literature. 100 Units.**

This workshop will focus on literature as a tool to explore tragic and traumatic events in history, such as wars, genocides, and natural disasters, among others. Through different examples, we will review different poetic and narrative forms that delve into historical and personal memory, remembering, reflecting, and analyzing events that have marked the lives of individuals, communities, and nations. We will discuss how writing can be an effective way of coping with the painful burden of history, helping to heal the wounds of the past, as well as to reflect on the ways in which literature can serve as a way of preserving the memory of the victims of these tragic events, allowing their stories to be told, remembered and honored in order to bring us a little closer to reparation and justice.

Instructor(s): Carlos Soto Román Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): LACS 35137, LACS 25137, CMLT 25137

**CMLT 35325. Nietzsche as Critic. 100 Units.**

Friedrich Nietzsche was as much a critic (of literature, art, music, culture) as he was a philosopher, and the purpose of this seminar is to bring out the conception of criticism that unfolds across his work. Doing so will require some comparisons: with the Enlightenment (Lessing) and Romantic (esp. the Schlegel brothers) conceptions of criticism, but also with notions of criticism advanced, for example, by the New Critics, by Walter Benjamin and Theodor W. Adorno, and in contemporary work on aesthetics. Our main focus, however, will be on pertinent writings by Nietzsche, including the early essay on "Truth and Lie in a Non-Moral Sense," Birth of Tragedy, Untimely Meditations, relevant aphorisms from Human, All Too Human, Dawn, Joyful Science, Beyond Good and Evil, and Twilight of the Idols, concluding with Case of Wagner. The topic of criticism in Nietzsche is not separable, of course, from the core themes of Nietzsche's work and the seminar may therefore be considered as one avenue of approach to Nietzsche's overall achievement. Major positions in the boundless secondary literature on Nietzsche will be considered. This course is open to graduate students. Advanced undergraduate students with a special interest in the topic may be admitted after consultation with the instructor.

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 35325, SCTH 35325

**CMLT 35550. Machiavelli: Politics and Theater. 100 Units.**

Arguably the most debated political theorist of all time due to The Prince, Machiavelli genuinely aspired to be remembered for his creative prowess. He explored various literary genres, such as short stories, dialogues, satirical poetry, letter writing, and, notably, theater, where he demonstrated mastery with The Mandrake, an exemplary Renaissance comedy. This course aims to reintegrate these two aspects of Machiavelli: the serious politician and the facetious performer, a Janus-faced figure who serves as a precursor of both Hobbes and Montaigne. We will revive the image of this "Renaissance man," and, through him, shed light on his era and fellow humanists by restoring their intellectual unity of prescription and laughter. Indeed, we will discover that Machiavelli encourages us not to take things, including him and ourselves, too seriously! Taught in English.

Instructor(s): Rocco Rubini Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 29305, TAPS 28481, CMLT 25550, ITAL 25550, ITAL 35550, TAPS 38481

**CMLT 35713. Toward a Critique of Avarice. 100 Units.**

With the help of Freud, Marx, Lacan, Foucault, Agamben (among others) along with some highpoints of the European literary canon, we propose to develop a "critique of avarice," a project to be sharply distinguished from the moralistic indignation at greed. Our historical and theoretical reflections on avarice open out on to a number of domains and modes of inquiry: from literary criticism to psychoanalysis, from the study of political economy to theories of biopolitics, and finally to the "Jewish question" in relation to all of this. The core text and touchstone of the seminar will be Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, in which the tensions, ambiguities, disavowals, hatreds, projections, and repressions associated with the "avarice complex" are magisterially staged and played out. Attention will also be given to the subsequent history of the figure of Shylock as well as to the capacities for mercy and forgiveness that were posited as the ideal opposites of avarice and usury. One of the goals of the seminar is to interrogate this very opposition.

Instructor(s): E. Santner, M. Dolar Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 35713, CDIN 35713

**CMLT 35801. Machiavelli and Machiavellism. 100 Units.**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to Machiavelli's *The Prince* in light of his vast and varied literary corpus and European reception. The course includes discussion of Machiavelli as playwright ("The Mandrake"), fiction writer ("Belfagor," "The Golden Ass"), and historian ("Discourses," "Florentine Histories"). We will also closely investigate the emergence of myths surrounding Machiavelli (Machiavellism and anti-Machiavellism) in Italy (Guicciardini, Botero, Boccalini), France (Bodin and Gentillet), Spain (Ribadeneyra), and Northern Europe (Hobbes, Grotius, Spinoza) during the Counter Reformation and beyond.

Instructor(s): Rocco Rubini

Note(s): Course conducted in English. Those seeking Italian credit will do all work in Italian. Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 25801, FNDL 21603, ITAL 33001, ITAL 23000

**CMLT 35810. Childhood and Fairy Tale in Bachelard, Benjamin, and Agamben. 100 Units.**

'The child' is a complex and fascinating notion that plays a crucial role in the writings of some of the major twentieth-century thinkers. The child is often linked to 'fairy tale,' as if one concept couldn't exist without the other. What constitutes a fairy tale, what is the difference between fairy tale, myth, and allegory, and who is the real narrator and listener of fairy tales are questions that can only be addressed through a second, fundamental query: What is 'the child'? What does 'the child' represent? What role does the imagination play in the formation of 'the child'? These issues are especially significant in the writings of Gaston Bachelard, Walter Benjamin, and Giorgio Agamben. Readings will include: Bachelard, "Poetics of Reverie: Childhood, Language, and the Cosmos"; Bachelard, "Air and Dreams. An Essay on the Imagination of Movement"; Bachelard, "The Flame of a Candle"; Benjamin, "One-Way Street"; Benjamin, "The Fireside Saga"; Benjamin, "Berlin Childhood around 1900"; Benjamin "Goethe's Elective Affinities,"; Benjamin, "The Storyteller"; Agamben, "Infancy and History"; Agamben, "Profanations"; Agamben, "Pulcinella or Entertainment for Children"; Agamben, "Pinocchio". We will also read an ample selection of classic fairy tales from Giambattista Basile ("The Tale of Tales"), the seventeenth-century French conteuses, The Brothers Grimm, Clemens Brentano, and Collodi's "Pinocchio." Taught in English.

Instructor(s): Armando Maggi Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 35800, CMLT 25810, ITAL 25800

**CMLT 35902. Virgil, The Aeneid. 100 Units.**

A close literary analysis of one of the most celebrated works of European literature. While the text, in its many dimensions, will offer more than adequate material for classroom analysis and discussion, attention will also be directed to the extraordinary reception of this epic, from Virgil's times to ours.

Instructor(s): G. Most

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 35902, SCTH 35902, CLAS 44512

**CMLT 35993. The Sublime. 100 Units.**

The sublime has traditionally been thought to have had a merely marginal place in ancient Greek and Latin aesthetics and literary theory; but some scholars have recently argued that it was instead more central, and it is difficult not to apply this category to many ancient literary works. However the explicit category of the sublime did not become central to European aesthetics until the 17th century and then continued until the 19th century to play a central role in discussions not only of art and literature, but also of religion, politics, and other fields. By the middle of the 19th century the wave of interest in the sublime seems to have subsided, but in the past forty years this concept has returned to play an important role in aesthetic theories. The seminar will consider the odd history of the sublime, examining central texts from ancient (Longinus), early modern (Boileau), and modern aesthetics (certainly Burke, Kant, Schiller, and Hegel; perhaps also, depending on students' interest and preparation, Tieck, Schlegel, Schelling, Solger, and Jean Paul) as well as some more recent discussions (again depending on student preferences, Nietzsche, Lyotard, Adorno, Zizek). It will also ask whether the concept of the sublime can still play an important role today, or, if not, then what has taken its place. We will deal primarily with theories of the sublime but also to some extent with works of art. Open to undergraduates with consent.

Instructor(s): Glenn Most Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 35521, CLCV 25521, SCTH 35993



**CMLT 35997. Three Comedies of Sexual Revolution. 100 Units.**

This seminar will discuss three comedies of sexual revolution from three different times and places.

Aristophanes's *Assemblywomen* recounts how under the leadership of the able Praxagora the women of Athens take over the Assembly and legislate a new regime in which private property is replaced by communism and sexual equity is achieved in favor of the old and unattractive at the expense of the young and attractive. Machiavelli's *Mandragola* dramatizes the tricks by which young Callimaco manages with the aid of the trickster parasite Ligurio to have sex with Lucrezia, the beautiful young wife of the elderly lawyer Nicomaco, with the consent of both her and her husband, ushering in a new regime in which all are satisfied. In Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* Angelo the interim duke of Vienna institutes a repressive sexual regime in which the brothels are closed and extramarital sex is a capital crime. What might we learn about sexual relations from these diverse plays? Why are they comedies?

Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov & Glenn Most Terms Offered: Spring, Spring 2024

Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates need the Instructor's permission to register.

Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 35997, PLSC 35997, SCLC 35997, CLCV 27623, CMLT 25823, SCLC 35997, CLAS 37623, PLSC 25997, GNSE 25997, FNDL 21772

**CMLT 35999. Realism: Art or Metaphysics? 100 Units.**

Besides its historical role as the first capital-letter avant-garde in painting and literature, Realism is making a return in many current artistic and, for that matter, cultural and journalistic contexts. But whether one examines its entanglement with reputed adversaries like Romanticism and Idealism, its origins in ancient and medieval metaphysics, or its strange side career as a label for amoral pragmatism in political theory and practice, the many-sidedness of realism makes pinning it down quite a challenge. Is there any common thread binding Plato and Courbet, Virginia Woolf and García Marquez, Catherine Opie and Ai Weiwei? Can there be a realism of dreams and desire, such as one might find in Freud? And is realism a revolutionary venture, or a consolidating surveillance of social types? What role do new technologies and forms of spectatorship, from oil painting to photography, the printed book to streaming media, play in its rise and evolution? Readings in art history, fiction, and philosophy will alternate with film screenings and gallery visits.

Instructor(s): Andrei Pop and Mechtilid Widrich Terms Offered: Autumn, Autumn

Prerequisite(s): No Consent Required

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 25999, KNOW 35010, SCLC 25010, KNOW 25010, ARTH 29609, ARTH 39609, SCLC 35010

**CMLT 36002. Gramsci. 100 Units.**

In this course we read selections from Antonio Gramsci's *Letters and Prison Notebooks* side by side with their sources. Gramsci's influential interpretations of the Italian Renaissance, Risorgimento, and Fascism are reviewed *testi alla mano* with the aim of reassessing some major turning points in Italian intellectual history. Readings and notions introduced include, for the Renaissance, Petrarch (the cosmopolitan intellectual), Savonarola (the disarmed prophet), Machiavelli (the modern prince), and Guicciardini (the *particulare*; for Italy's long Risorgimento, Vico (living philology), Cuoco (passive revolution), Manzoni (*questione della lingua*), Gioberti (clericalism), and De Sanctis (the Man of Guicciardini); and Croce (the anti-Croce) and Pirandello (theater and national-popular literature), for Italy's twentieth century.

Instructor(s): R. Rubini

Note(s): Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 26000, ITAL 36000, FNDL 26206, CMLT 26002

**CMLT 36012. 19th Century French Poetry in Translation: Tradition and Revolution. 100 Units.**

A study of modern French lyric poetry: Tradition and Revolution, Poetry and Politics, the seedbed of Modernism. Desbordes-Valmore, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Apollinaire. Texts will be read in English with reference to the French originals. Close reading, references to poetry in English, and focus on problems in translation. Students with French should read the poems in the original. Class discussion to be conducted in English; critical essays to be written in English. An extra weekly session will be scheduled for discussion in French, for French-speakers.

Instructor(s): Rosanna Warren

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 36019, ENGL 36012, FREN 26019, SCLC 36012, SCLC 26012

**CMLT 36015. The New Criticism. 100 Units.**

An examination of primary works of The New Criticism, British and American. We will consider the theoretical variety and different critical practices of these loosely allied critics, who were often not allies at all. Authors to be studied: I.A. Richards, T.S. Eliot, F.R. Leavis, Kenneth Burke, John Crowe Ransom, Cleanth Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, W.K. Wimsatt, Yvor Winters, R. P. Blackmur, William Empson.

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 43250, SCLC 36015

**CMLT 36088. The Scientist in the Nineteenth-Century Imagination. 100 Units.**

The nineteenth century saw both the professionalization of science and the specialization of its practitioners. In this age of "human empire" produced by industrialization, new technologies offered humanity unprecedented dominion over the natural world, and the "scientist," a term coined in 1834, marked the advent of the idea of a vocation dedicated to that mastery. Moreover, by the end of the century, the natural philosophers and polymaths of earlier ages had given way to chemists, physicists, biologists, and statisticians, whose scope of study was necessarily both deeper and narrower. These developments produced a new social and political positioning for

the scientist - an expert, an authority, a wielder of power. This class explores how nineteenth-century fiction writers, from Mary Shelley and Edgar Allan Poe to Jules Verne and Arthur Conan Doyle, engaged with these emerging and transforming conceptualizations of the scientist figure. We will pair our literary explorations with non-fiction readings texts by thinkers and scientists such as Humphry Davy, Karl Pearson, Claude Bernard, William Whewell, and Max Weber ("Science as Vocation") about what the scientist should be and science should do. Additionally, we'll consider how this literary genealogy influences both our fictional portrayal of science to this day as well as our perceptions of it - from our contemporary distrust of expertise to our fear of the scientist playing god.

Instructor(s): Anastasia Klimchynskaya Terms Offered: Winter  
Equivalent Course(s): CHSS 36088, KNOW 36088

#### **CMLT 36200. Early-Modern Aesthetics and French Classicism. 100 Units.**

Though "aesthetic" philosophy first developed as an autonomous field in the mid-eighteenth century, it has important roots in earlier seventeenth-century debates concerning literature and the arts. In the wake of Cartesian rationalism, could reasoned method be reconciled with non-rational creativity, or decorous order with the unruly "sublime"? Just what kind of "truth" was revealed by poetry or painting? We will consider the relation between literature and other media (including music, opera, and the visual arts) and gauge the impact of French classical criticism on the broader European scene, considering its reception and contestation in Britain, Italy, Spain and Germany. Among the authors considered will be Descartes, Pascal, Boileau, Molière, Félibien, Du Bos, Addison, Hutcheson, Vico, Montesquieu, Diderot, and Herder.

Instructor(s): L. Norman Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Reading knowledge of French

Note(s): Course conducted in English but students taking course for French credit must do all written work in French.

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 36200, REMS 36210

#### **CMLT 36319. The Sublime: Theory and History of an Aesthetic Category. 100 Units.**

This course focuses on the aesthetic category of the sublime, combining a rich theoretical discussion with analysis of literary and visual texts. The starting point is Pseudo Longinus' "On the Sublime," the first text in the history of aesthetics to focus on reception and subjective response. After a close reading of this text and a careful examination of its recent interpretations, the course will first deal with key moments in the long and complex modern theoretical debate on the sublime, with special focus on the Italian Renaissance and Torquato Tasso, French classicism and Boileau, the British Enlightenment and Burke. In parallel with this historical overview, the course will examine concrete examples of the sublime in the arts, especially the poetry of Leopardi and Baudelaire, and the parallel theme of landscape, especially in visual arts. The last part of the course will focus on contemporary philosophical and aesthetic debate on the sublime, in particular on Fredric Jameson's notion of the hysterical sublime, Slavoj Žižek's reflection on trash sublime; and on parallels with visual arts: Italian *arte povera*, Bill Viola's videos inspired by Italian Renaissance paintings, Anselm Kiefer's paintings, Mario Martone's movie on Leopardi, and Lars von Trier's "Melancholia," which recovers the theme of apocalypse reinforced by Wagner's sublime music.

Instructor(s): M. Fusillo Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Taught in English.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 36319

#### **CMLT 36523. Motherless Tongue: Introduction to Transnational Writing in German. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to contemporary authors writing in German whose texts explore cross-pollinations between languages and cultures. Discussions will center around topics such as: identity; cosmopolitanism; memory; cultural hybridity and alterity; hospitality; guests and hosts; storytelling; migration; what are transnational German Studies? Authors include: the Japanese writer Yoko Tawada who lives in Berlin and writes in Japanese and German; the Romanian-born author Herta Müller (Nobel Prize in 2009); the Black British author Sharon Dodua Otoo who resides in Berlin and writes in German and English; the Ukrainian-German writer Katja Petrowskaja; the Turkish-born writer Feridun Zaimoglu; and others. Course conducted in English with an Lx option for interested students.

Instructor(s): Margareta Ingrid Christian Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 36523, GRMN 26523, CMLT 26523

#### **CMLT 36602. Materiality and Socialist Cinema. 100 Units.**

What constitutes the materiality of film? How do we understand the "material world" in relation to cinema, and how does the film camera mediate it? What does the process of mediation look like when the goal of cinema is not solely to represent but also change the world? This course will pair theoretical readings on new materialist approaches to cinema with select case studies drawn from Chinese and Soviet revolutionary cinema. Our primary aim is twofold: to introduce students to the "material turn" in cinema and media studies, and to reflect on what the specific fields of Soviet and Chinese Film Studies bring to the discussion. We will look closely at works by socialist filmmakers in the twentieth century who argued that cinema had a special role to play in mediating and transforming the material world. How does socialist cinema seek to orient its viewer to a particular relationship to objects? How does it treat the human relationship to the environment? How does it regard the material of film and the process of filmmaking itself? Ultimately, the course will familiarize students with diverse understandings of materiality and materialism and with key figures and works in global socialist cinema. Readings and screenings will range from the Soviet avant-garde of the 1920s to Chinese revolutionary

cinema of the early 1970s, and conclude with recent documentary and video experiments that engage with their legacies.

Equivalent Course(s): REES 36600, CMLT 26602, CMST 36611, EALC 26611, EALC 36611, REES 26600, CMST 26611

**CMLT 36680. Literary Games: Oulipo and Onward. 100 Units.**

Does constraint foster creativity? Can wordplay carry political meaning? Is formal innovation divorced from lyrical expression? How do experimental literary movements respond to their sociopolitical moments and local contexts, and how do they transform when they travel across geographical and linguistic borders? We will consider these questions via the work of the longest-lived French literary group, the Oulipo (Ouvroir de littérature potentielle or Workshop for Potential Literature), examining its origins as a quasi-secret society in 1960 and its expansion into an internationally visible and multilingual collective (with members from Italy, Spain, Argentina, and the US). We will investigate debates about inspiration and authorship, copying and plagiarism, collective creation, multilingualism, constraint and translation, and the viability of the lyric subject. While considering antecedents (Edgar Allan Poe, Raymond Roussel), our readings will explore several generations of Oulipians (Raymond Queneau, Georges Perec, Italo Calvino, Michèle Métail, Anne Garreta, Frédéric Forte), and conclude with some very contemporary Oulipo-inspired writing from around the world (Christian Bök, Urayoán Noel, Mónica de la Torre, K. Silem Mohammed). Alongside critical essays, students will carry out short experiments with constraint and procedure, as well as translation exercises; and they will have the opportunity for dialogue with acclaimed writers and scholars who will visit our seminar.

Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin and Alison James  
Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Open to advanced undergraduates. Students who are taking the class for French credit will complete some readings and writings in French.

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 26680, FREN 36680, ENGL 36680, ENGL 26680, CMLT 26680

**CMLT 36700. Renaissance and Baroque Fairytales and Their Modern Rewritings. 100 Units.**

We study the distinctions between myth and fairy tale, and then focus on collections of modern Western European fairy tales, including those by Straparola, Basile, and Perrault, in light of their contemporary rewritings of classics (Angela Carter, Calvino, Anne Sexton). We analyze this genre from diverse critical standpoints (e.g., historical, structuralist, psychoanalytic, feminist) through the works of Croce, Propp, Bettelheim, and Marie-Louise Von Franz.

Instructor(s): A. Maggi

Note(s): Class conducted in English. Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): REMS 36200, CMLT 26700, ITAL 36200, ITAL 26200

**CMLT 36701. Marsilio Ficino's "On Love" 100 Units.**

This course is first of all a close reading of Marsilio Ficino's seminal book *On Love* (first Latin edition *De amore* 1484; Ficino's own Italian translation 1544). Ficino's philosophical masterpiece is the foundation of the Renaissance view of love from a Neo-Platonic perspective. It is impossible to overemphasize its influence on European culture. *On Love* is not just a radically new interpretation of Plato's *Symposium*. It is the book through which sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe read the love experience. Our course will analyze its multiple classical sources and its spiritual connotations. During our close reading of Ficino's text, we will show how European writers and philosophers appropriated specific parts of this Renaissance masterpiece. In particular, we will read extensive excerpts from some important love treatises, such as Castiglione's *The Courtier* (*Il cortigiano*), Leone Ebreo's *Dialogues on Love*, Tullia d'Aragona's *On the Infinity of Love*, but also selections from a variety of European poets, such as Michelangelo's *canzoniere*, Maurice Scève's *Délie*, and Fray Luis de León's *Poesía*.

Instructor(s): A. Maggi

Note(s): Course taught in English. Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): REMS 33900, ITAL 33900, ITAL 23900, CMLT 26701, FNDL 21103

**CMLT 36702. Arabic into Hebrew: Translation and Cultural Change during the Middle Ages. 100 Units.**

Religions, like all cultural phenomena, are akin to organic beings: they change, grow and adapt, absorb and assimilate what they encounter, become transformed constantly in relation to challenges and opportunities - and sometimes react against them. This course will focus on one example of religious-cultural-philosophical adaptation and change through a study of the medieval translation of Arabic and Judeo-Arabic works into Hebrew during the 12th-15th centuries. We will focus on the translations themselves and translation technique, but principally on what was translated and why, when and where, by whom and for whom. All this with an added emphasis on the result: how did Judaism and Jewish culture change through translation - in all its forms - during the high middle ages.

Instructor(s): James T. Robinson  
Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 26702, ISLM 36702, HREL 36702, HIJD 36702, RLVC 36702, NEHC 36702, MDVL 26702, NEHC 26702, CMLT 26702, JWSC 26702

**CMLT 36855. Queer Theory. 100 Units.**

This course offers a foundation in queer theory. In order to understand the contested definitions of the term "queer" and explore the contours of the field's major debates, we will work to historicize queer theory's emergence in the 1980s and 1990s amidst the AIDS crisis. Reading texts by key figures like Foucault, Sedgwick, Butler, Lorde, Bersani, Crimp, Warner, Halperin, Dinshaw, Edelman, Anzaldúa, Ferguson, and Muñoz in

addition to prominent issues of journals like GLQ, differences, and Signs, we will approach these pieces as historical artifacts and place these theorists within the communities of intellectuals, activists, and artists out of which their work emerged. We will, thus, imagine queer theory as a literary practice of mournful and militant devotion, trace queer theory's relationship to feminism and critical race theory, critique the hagiographic tendency of the academic star system, and interrogate the assumptions of queer theory's secularity.

Instructor(s): Kris Trujillo Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 36855, CMLT 26855, ENGL 26855, GNSE 36855, ENGL 36855, GNSE 20130, RLST 26885

**CMLT 36912. Strangers to Ourselves: Emigre Literature and Film from Russia and Southeast Europe. 100 Units.**

Being alienated from myself, as painful as that may be, provides me with that exquisite distance within which perverse pleasure begins, as well as the possibility of my imagining and thinking," writes Julia Kristeva in "Strangers to Ourselves," the book from which this course takes its title. The authors whose works we are going to examine often alternate between nostalgia and the exhilaration of being set free into the breathless possibilities of new lives. Leaving home does not simply mean movement in space. Separated from the sensory boundaries that defined their old selves, immigrants inhabit a warped, fragmentary, disjointed time. Immigrant writers struggle for breath-speech, language, voice, the very stuff of their craft resounds somewhere else. Join us as we explore the pain, the struggle, the failure, and the triumph of emigration and exile. Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Nina Berberova, Julia Kristeva, Alexander Hemon, Dubravka Ugrešić, Norman Manea, Miroslav Penkov, Ilija Trojanow, Tea Obreht.

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): REES 39010, REES 29010, CMLT 26912

**CMLT 36994. Anticolonial Worlding: Literature, Film, Thought. 100 Units.**

This course explores anticolonial worldbuilding through literature, film, art, and philosophy. It focuses on the role of the cultural Cold War in shaping anticolonial aesthetics and politics during the twentieth century as well as its impact on our current political moment. The mid-century was characterized by an expansion of anticolonial festivals, exchanges, and congresses and marked by political crises and coalitional solidarity across Vietnam, Palestine, Cuba, Soviet and US imperial expansion, and the May 1968 student protests. We will explore how Pan-Arab, Pan-African, Non-Aligned/Global South, Marxist-Leninist, indigenous land rights, and racial justice movements mobilized class, gender, and language politics. Exploring anticolonial literature, film, and art across a multilingual and transnational archive we will ask how socialist and speculative realisms, engaged literature, third cinema, agitprop, and other aesthetic movements generated powerful internationalist imaginations and networks of resistance.

Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 26994, HMRT 26994, RDIN 26994, NEHC 26994, REES 26994, RDIN 36994, ENGL 26994, GNSE 36994, GNSE 26994

**CMLT 37125. Fiction, Nonfiction & Microhistory. 100 Units.**

The course will focus on one of the most important trends of Italian/European literature, that of creative nonfiction, and its connection(s) with microhistory as it has been theorized by, among others, Carlo Ginzburg. In doing so, we will first touch upon several narratological issues - e.g. whether it is possible to clearly distinguish between fiction and nonfiction writing - and reflect upon the problematic epistemological status of historiographical writing. We will furthermore analyze different nonfiction novels from Europe (J. Cercas, "Soldiers of Salamin"; E. Carrère, "The Adversary"; R. Saviano, "Gomorrah"), focusing on the similarities and differences between contemporary European nonfictional writings and the American tradition of New Journalism and the nonfiction novel.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 37125, ITAL 27125, CMLT 27122

**CMLT 37525. Rilke, Malte, Modernism. 100 Units.**

The concept of "modernism" embraces a number of artistic trends and movements that arose in the second half of the nineteenth century in Europe and continued well into the twentieth century. In this seminar we will examine works of literature and visual art that are understood as "modernist" and works of criticism and philosophical contributions devoted to understanding what modernism is. The work of Rainer Maria Rilke will be an important point of reference. We will study his novel *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* and selected poems and essays. Since Paris is the locus of (much of) Rilke's novel, we will look back to Baudelaire, especially his essay *The Painter of Modern Life*, and his poem *À une passante* (To a passerby) along with relevant commentaries. Rilke worked on the novel during a period when he was also engaged with Cézanne's painting, which affords an opportunity to consider certain paintings by Cézanne. Here we will be guided by Maurice Merleau-Ponty's essay *Cézanne's Doubt*, Robert Pippin's study *After the Beautiful: Hegel and the Philosophy of Pictorial Modernism* (2014), and T.J. Clark's recent book *If these Apples Should Fall: Cézanne and the Present* (2022). The course is a grad-level participatory (discussion-intensive) seminar. English translations will be provided for works in French and German, but discussions will be dotted by references to the original works. Undergraduates with advanced work in the arts or philosophy require instructor permission.

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 37525, GRMN 27525, SCTH 37525

**CMLT 37620. Appropriation and Adaptation of Shakespeare in Colonial/Postcolonial Contexts. 100 Units.**

This course examines ways in which various works of Shakespeare have been appropriated and adapted in colonial/postcolonial contexts, with a special focus on Arabic and Palestinian literary and cultural productions. Students will be encouraged to examine the appropriation and adaptation of the works of Shakespeare through a close reading of the selected texts or excerpts. Students will have the opportunity to engage with important concepts such as intertextuality and influence while commenting on the author's admiration of Shakespeare's work or his or her challenge to him. All readings will be in English, although there might be an opportunity to discuss some of the texts in the original language (Arabic).

Instructor(s): Ahmad Qabaha Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 37620, CMLT 27620, ENGL 27620, NEHC 27620, ENGL 37620

**CMLT 37621. Philosophical Aesthetics: Heidegger and Adorno. 100 Units.**

Two major positions in German philosophical aesthetics of the 20th century will be considered in detail: 1) the ontological-hermeneutic theory advanced by Martin Heidegger; 2) the dialectical-critical theory developed by Theodor W. Adorno. Primary readings will be Heidegger's *Origin of the Work of Art* and selections from Adorno's *Aesthetic Theory*. In addition, selected shorter pieces by the two authors will be studied, with a special emphasis on their work on lyric poetry. The seminar will also consider contributions by Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, Helmut Plessner, Arnold Gehlen, Georg Lukács. The course seeks to develop an understanding of the conceptual foundation of each of the two philosophical positions. Particular topics to be considered: a) the nature of artistic presentation (*Darstellung*); b) the nature of artistic truth; c) the historical character of art; d) the political significance of art; e) the relation of art to philosophy.

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Undergrads must receive consent.

Equivalent Course(s): SETH 27621, SETH 37621, GRMN 37621, CMLT 27621, GRMN 27621

**CMLT 37652. Broken Mirrors: Writing the Other from Herodotus to the Jewish/Christian. 100 Units.**

How are Others represented in Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian canons? Is the Other purely a mirror of the self who represents it? Or do self and Other interact? Can we trace and compare patterns of representation and taxonomies for human difference across cultures, genres, regions, periods, and sciences? How can we develop new critical frameworks and concepts for this task, if we refuse to take for granted the categories and conventions of today's academic disciplines? What might this new approach to the Other help us to learn, or unlearn, about the making of "the West"? In order to answer those questions, our course will survey the most influential literary models of the Other, from Herodotus to the early medieval "Life of Jesus" polemic tradition. Beyond developing a new framework for exploring and connecting these diverse sources, it has three historical aims. First, to interrogate the limits of modern anthropology as the institutionalized site for writing and knowing the Other. Second, to reveal the centrality of the figure of the Jew in the prehistory of anthropology, where it plays a neglected but crucial role in the European history of human difference in general. Finally, to expose the premodern roots of "scientific" categories—"primitive," "civilized," "Oriental," "Aryan," "Semite," etc.—where racial, linguistic, religious, and cultural differences still intersect today.

Instructor(s): James Adam Redfield Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): HREL 37652, JWSC 26603, RLST 27652, HIJD 37652, CLCV 21922, CLAS 31922

**CMLT 38123. Friedrich Hölderlin: Poetic Media and Prophecy. 100 Units.**

The landscapes of southwest Germany and ancient Greece figure prominently in Friedrich Hölderlin's poetic thinking and writing. What allows his poems to bridge and interlace both worlds - often in the span of a single sentence - is his understanding of nature, which is deeply informed by Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *retour à la nature* ("return to nature"). It is through nature that the modern self can not only access the unspoiled culture of the Greeks but also commune with the divine - whether in the form of the ancient pantheon or a more Christian version of transcendence. Paradoxically, nature is mediated in a variety of ways; whether through the elemental media of water, air, earth, fire, and light, travel accounts, maps, and more generally written and printed texts. Our seminar will examine - through close readings of some of Hölderlin's most famous and challenging poems - how the deployed poetic media structure aesthetic experience and afford travel to distant times and places. All texts will be read in English translation, but a reading knowledge of German is going to be helpful.

Instructor(s): Christopher Wild Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 38123, GRMN 38123

**CMLT 38500. Journey to the West II. 100 Units.**

TBD

Equivalent Course(s): CHIN 21306, RLIT 49200, CMLT 28500, CHIN 31306

**CMLT 38600. Neoclassical Aesthetics: Transnational Approaches. 100 Units.**

Though "aesthetic" philosophy first developed as an autonomous field in the mid-eighteenth century, it has important roots in earlier eighteenth- and seventeenth-century debates concerning literature and the arts. In the wake of Cartesian rationalism, could reasoned method be reconciled with non-rational creativity, or decorous order with the unruly "sublime"? Just what kind of "truth" was revealed by poetry or painting? What is the value of the Greco-Roman models versus authorial innovation? We will consider the relation between literature and other media (particularly opera and the visual arts) and read French texts in dialogue with other, and often



contending, national trends (British, German, Italian). Readings will include Descartes, Pascal, Perrault, Félibien, Dryden, Du Bos, Addison, Vico, Montesquieu, Staël, and A.W. Schlegel.

Instructor(s): Larry Norman Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Reading knowledge of French is required. Undergrads permitted with consent of instructor.

Note(s): Taught in English. Students seeking FREN credit must complete all readings and written work in French.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 48301, SCTH 37000, FREN 37000

**CMLT 38633. Monkeys, Elephants, and Cows: Animals in Indian Literatures and Cultures. 100 Units.**

Non-human animals are ubiquitous in India's literary and visual cultures, whether as characters in epics, fables and moral tale; as objects of study by court scholars and painters; as pets and hunting companions; as part of the Hindu pantheon (such as the elephant-headed god Ganapathi, or the monkey god Hanuman) or as symbols and metaphors. This course explores the complex interactions among human and non-human animals and the realms of animals/mortals/immortals through examples from India's literatures, Indian painting and film - across times, places, spaces and religious traditions. It will conclude with contemporary debates on animal activism and provide a non-Western entry point into the field of animal studies.

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 28633, SALC 28633

**CMLT 38660. Contemporary Palestinian Life Writing. 100 Units.**

This course analyzes a range of Palestinian life narratives produced by authors based in different places, both in Palestine and the diaspora, united in a common cause and a desire to speak out, thereby circulating their works as a form of Palestinian testimony. This course sees these writers conversing with each other, each attempting to represent their own personal experience but also responding to the broader context of ongoing Palestinian dispossession, making this integral to the snapshot of experience they want to narrate. This course shows that such texts, individually meaningful but also conversant with wider concerns and messages of solidarity and advocacy, are ideal components of contemporary Palestinian literature that position itself as future-orientated, and expresses a desire to combat the international community's failure to acknowledge Palestinian rights for justice and self-determination. This course contends that contemporary Palestinian life writing goes beyond narrating the specifics of the conflict in order to reflect on central questions of dignity, justice, and solidarity at the time Palestine is still a place that is not fully recognized. All readings will be in English, although there will be an opportunity to read and discuss texts in the original language (Arabic).

Instructor(s): Ahmad Qabaha Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 38660, ENGL 28661, CMLT 28660, RDIN 28660, NEHC 28660, RDIN 38660, ENGL 38661

**CMLT 38690. Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things Revisited. 100 Units.**

South Indian author Arundhati Roy's fascinating Booker-prize winning novel *The God of Small Things* (1997) catapulted her to unexpected world fame, leading to the book's inclusion in many liberal arts curricula centered around postcolonial writing or so-called "world lit". Written in English, the novel appears to be easily accessible to a global audience, but in fact the narrative contains dense layers of micro-regional, specific nuances that can easily escape readers and that warrant closer examination. In this course, we will read the novel closely with fresh eyes, pairing the fictional text with select secondary sources on gender, caste, class, history, communism, regionalism, vernacularity, migration, diaspora and trauma. No prior knowledge of India/South Asia is required. Students who wish to take this class need to be present from week 1 of the quarter.

Instructor(s): Nisha Kommattam Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): SALC 28690, CMLT 28690

**CMLT 38800. The (Auto)Biography of a Nation: Francesco De Sanctis and Benedetto Croce. 100 Units.**

At its core, this course examines the making and legacy of Francesco De Sanctis's *History of Italian Literature* (1870-71), a work that distinguished literary critic René Wellek defined as "the finest history of any literature ever written" and "an active instrument of aesthetic evolution." We will read the *History* in the larger context of De Sanctis's corpus, including his vast epistolary exchanges, autobiographical writings, and so-called *Critical Essays* in order to detail his reform of Hegelian aesthetics, his redefinition of the intellectual's task after the perceived exhaustion of the Renaissance, Enlightenment, and Romantic moments, and his campaign against the bent toward erudition, philology, and antiquarianism in 19th-century European scholarship. We will compare De Sanctis's methodology to that of his scholarly models in France (Alphonse de Lamartine, Alfred Mézières) and Germany (Georg Gottfried Gervinus, Georg Voigt) to explore De Sanctis's claim that literary criticisms - not just literary cultures - are "national." In the second part of the course, we assess Benedetto Croce's appropriation of De Sanctis in his *Aesthetics* (1902), arguably the last, vastly influential work in its genre and we conclude with Antonio Gramsci's use of De Sanctis for the regeneration of a literary savvy Marxism or philosophy of praxis.

Instructor(s): R. Rubini

Note(s): Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 37700, CMLT 38800, KNOW 27700, KNOW 37700, ITAL 27700

**CMLT 38810. Empire, Slavery & Salvation: Writing Difference in the Colonial Americas. 100 Units.**

This course explores portrayals of human difference in literature, travel writing, painting, and autobiography from Spain, England, and the Americas. Students will become versed in debates surrounding the emergence of human distinctions based on religion, race, and ethnicity in the early modern era. Understanding these debates and the history surrounding them is crucial to participating in informed discussion, research, and activism regarding issues of race, empire, and colonialism across time and space.



Instructor(s): Larissa Brewer-García Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): The course will be conducted in English, but advanced reading knowledge of Spanish is necessary.

Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 38810, LACS 38810

**CMLT 38990. La Princesse de Clèves and the Genesis of the Modern Novel. 100 Units.**

Madame de La Fayette's 1678 novel represents a turning point in the international development of the psychological novel and historical fiction. Set in a Renaissance past of courtly international intrigue, the novel plumbs its characters' interiorized struggles with erotic desire, marriage, and adultery, forging a path for later novelists such as Flaubert, George Eliot, and Tolstoy. We will examine debates about its literary form and moral impact, as well as around gender and women's writing, placing the novel in a transnational context (Spanish, Italian, and English romances, drama, and moral philosophy) and its later reception, including film adaptations and its role in heated contemporary controversies around the place of the humanities in society. Students are encouraged to undertake individual comparative research projects in relation to the novel. Course taught in English but reading ability in French required.

Instructor(s): Larry Norman Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required for undergrads; those seeking FREN credit must have completed at least one French literature course, 21700 or higher.

Note(s): All work in French for students seeking FREN credit; written work may be in English for others.

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 28900, FREN 38900, FNDL 29405, CMLT 28990

**CMLT 39023. Returning the Gaze: The West and the Rest. 100 Units.**

Aware of being observed. And judged. Inferior... Abject... Angry... Proud... This course provides insight into identity dynamics between the "West," as the center of economic power and self-proclaimed normative humanity, and the "Rest," as the poor, backward, volatile periphery. We investigate the relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western gaze. Inherent in the act of looking at oneself through the eyes of another is the privileging of that other's standard. We will contemplate the responses to this existential position of identifying symbolically with a normative site outside of oneself-self-consciousness, defiance, arrogance, self-exoticization and consider how these responses have been incorporated in the texture of the national, gender, and social identities in the region. Orhan Pamuk, Ivo Andrić, Nikos Kazantzakis, Aleko Konstantinov, Emir Kusturica, Milcho Manchevski.

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29023, HIST 33609, REES 29023, HIST 23609, NEHC 29023, NEHC 39023, REES 39023

**CMLT 39024. States of Surveillance. 100 Units.**

What does it feel to be watched and listened to all the time? Literary and cinematic works give us a glimpse into the experience of living under surveillance and explore the human effects of surveillance - the fraying of intimacy, fracturing sense of self, testing the limits of what it means to be human. Works from the former Soviet Union (Solzhenitsyn, Abram Tertz, Andrey Zvyagintsev), former Yugoslavia (Ivo Andrić, Danilo Kiš, Dušan Kovačević), Romania (Norman Manea, Cristian Mungiu), Bulgaria (Valeri Petrov), and Albania (Ismail Kadare).

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29024, REES 39024, REES 29024

**CMLT 39045. Dostoevsky and Critical Theory. 100 Units.**

The tormented, obsessed, and sadistic characters of Dostoevsky's novels posed a challenge to positivism and reason too scandalous and compelling to be ignored. The novels inspired some of the most brilliant and influential thinkers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the fields of religion, philosophy, psychology and literary theory. We will read two of Dostoevsky's philosophically challenging novels alongside works by these critics and philosophers, including Nietzsche, Sartre, Freud, Bakhtin, Kristeva, and Levinas. While exploring their ideas about faith and unbelief, madness and reason, violence and torture, society and history, we will also inquire into the relationships among literature, philosophy and biography and examine the processes of influence and adaptation.

Instructor(s): Anne Eakin Moss Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): RLST 28207, CMLT 29045, REES 39045, REES 29045

**CMLT 39300. Dostoevsky: The Idiot. 100 Units.**

TBD

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 28902, FNDL 27101, REES 20018, ENGL 48902, CMLT 29300, REES 30018

**CMLT 39821. Goethe's Faust: Myth and Modernity. 100 Units.**

In this seminar we shall undertake an intensive study of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Faust, with close textual study of the entirety of Part I and Act 5 of Part II. We will begin by casting a brief look at the earliest versions of the Faust myth, the so-called Faust Chapbook of 1587 and Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus composed 1589-92, premiered 1592), and we will have an eye on later versions such as those of Paul Valéry and Thomas Mann. Some consideration will be devoted to the question of modern "myth" and the Faust myth will be compared to that of Don Juan in particular. Our major task, however, will be to develop a close reading and interpretation of Goethe's text, which ranks as one of the supreme achievements of the European literary tradition. The interpretive issues at the center of our inquiry will include: a) the theory of (modern) tragedy; b) desire and subjectivity; c) Faust in relation to post-Kantian philosophy; d) the theme of time and the "moment." In addition to major works of scholarship, we shall touch on interpretations of the play by Schelling and Kierkegaard. Command of German

will be helpful, but students may also refer to an English translation. (Recommended English version: Faust I & II, translated by Stuart Atkins, introduction by David E. Wellbery, Princeton Classics, 2014. Recommended German version: Faust I und II, hrsg. Albrecht Schöne, 2 vols. Text + commentary. Deutscher Klassiker Verlag 2017.)

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 39821, GRMN 39821

**CMLT 40010. Ruins. 100 Units.**

Ruins" will cover texts and images, from Thucydides to WWII, via the Reformation. We will include films (e.g. Rossellini's "Germany Year Zero"), art (e.g. H. Robert, Piranesi) archaeology, and the museum (Soane). On ruins writing, we will read Thucydides, Pausanias from within antiquity, the Enlightenment responses to the destruction and archaeological rediscovery of Pompeii, Diderot, Simmel, Freud on the mind as levels of ruins (Rome) and the analysis as reconstructive archaeologist as well as on the novel Gradiava and the Acropolis, the Romantic obsession with ruins, and the firebombing in WWII. We will also consider the photographing of ruins, and passages from the best-known works on photography (Benjamin, Sontag, Ritchen, Fried, Azoulay). The goal is to see how ruin gazing, and its depictions (textual, imagistic, photographic, etc.) change from the ancients (Greek and Roman), to the Romantic use of ruins as a source of (pleasurable) melancholy, to the technological "advances" in targeting and decimating civilian populations that describe the Second World War.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 40010, RLIT 40010, CDIN 40010

**CMLT 40100. Islamic Love Poetry. 100 Units.**

The focus of this course is classical Islamic love poetry, Arabic and Persian love lyric will be covered, as well as some Ottoman love lyric (at least in translation). In the past we have incorporated Urdu, Punjabi, Bangla, Bosnian, and Turkish traditions, and-for comparative and historical purposes-Hebrew poetry from medieval Andalus. Because none of us are proficient in the all these languages, students who are proficient a given language are asked to provide a guide (including text, translation, explanation of key vocabulary, etc.) for selected poems from in that language. Each member of the class will be asked to present one poem guide, in addition to a final assignment. Among the poets commonly included in the course are Ibn Zaydun, Ibn al-Farid, Ibn al-'Arabi, Rumi, Hafiz, Baba Fighani, Na'ili, Mir Dard, Bulleh Shah, and Ghalib.

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 40600, RLIT 40300, ISLM 40100

**CMLT 40203. Biopolitics & Posthumanism. 100 Units.**

Much has been written about the possibility (or impossibility) of creating an integrated political schema that incorporates living status, not species boundary, as the salient distinction between person and thing. In this course, we will explore how biopolitical and posthumanistic scholars like Michel Foucault, Hannah Arendt, Giorgio Agamben, Jane Bennett, Cary Wolfe, and Donna Haraway have acknowledged (and advocated transcending) the anthropocentric *umwelt*, to borrow Jakob von Üexküll's influential term. In parallel with our theoretical readings, we will explore how actual legal systems have incorporated the nonhuman, with a particular focus on Anglo-American and transnational law. Our goal is to develop our own sense of an applied biopolitics-whether to our own research, to future legislation and jurisprudence, or both.

Instructor(s): Nicolette I. Bruner Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): This course fulfills part of the KNOW Core Seminar requirement to be eligible to apply for the SIFK Dissertation Research Fellowship. No instructor consent is required, but registration is not final until after the 1st week in order to give Ph.D. students priority.

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 40203, CHSS 40203, KNOW 40203

**CMLT 41219. Interpretation: Theory and Practice. 100 Units.**

his seminar will be conducted on two tracks. On the one hand, we will study major contributions to hermeneutic theory (including positions that understand themselves as anti-hermeneutic). Contributions to be considered include works by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Wilhelm Dilthey, Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Paul Ricoeur, E.D. Hirsch, Manfred Frank, Roland Barthes, Stanley Cavell, and Jacques Derrida. At the same time, the seminar will include a practical component in which we will collectively develop interpretations of works by Heinrich von Kleist, Johann Peter Hebel, Franz Kafka, Friedrich Nietzsche, Charles Baudelaire, Guillaume Apollinaire, Emily Dickinson, and Herman Melville. English translations of the assigned readings will be provided. (This course is restricted to students in Ph.D. programs.)

Instructor(s): David Wellbery Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 41219, SCTH 41219, FREN 41219, GRMN 41219

**CMLT 41410. The Literary Life of Things in China. 100 Units.**

This course investigates traditional literary strategies in China through which objects are depicted and animated. Our emphasis will be on reading in primary sources, but we'll also draw on secondary sources from anthropology, the history of material culture, literary theory, and art history, both from within and outside China studies. Each week will introduce some basic genre and key literary works while also foregrounding certain conceptual issues. Students will select a case study to work on throughout the quarter, which will become their final research paper and which will also help orient their shorter class presentations. The choice of subject for the case study is quite open, so that each student can pursue a project that relates to his or her own central interests. It might be a cultural biography of a real object or class of objects; it might be a study of how objects are deployed in a novel or play, encyclopedia or connoisseurship manual, but there are many other possibilities.

Instructor(s): J. Zeitlin Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): EALC 41400

**CMLT 41815. Writing the Algerian War of Independence. 100 Units.**

This course aims to examine the representation of the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962) in the work of Algerian and French writers. It will consider a corpus of testimonial texts, novels, and poetry in relation to the memory of the war, its traumatic experiences, and various forms of anticolonial struggle and insurgency. We will analyse the narrative, discursive, and poetic strategies used by authors to explore individual and collective memories and elaborate a politics of resistance and transformation in the Algerian context. Studied authors include Maïssa Bey, Assia Djebar, Leïla Sebbar, Mouloud Feraoun, Jean Sénac, Laurent Mauvignier, and Joseph Andras.

Instructor(s): Khalid Lyamlahy Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): All readings and in-class discussions will be in English. Students will have the option to write either in English or in French.

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 41815, FREN 41815

**CMLT 42103. Hemispheric Studies. 100 Units.**

This course examines Hemispheric Studies approaches to the literatures and cultures of the Americas, which combines a commitment to comparatism with attention to the specificities of local contexts ranging from the Southern Cone to the Caribbean to North America. Theories drawn from American Studies, Canadian Studies, Caribbean Studies, Latin American Studies, Poetry and Poetics, Postcolonial Studies, and U.S. Latinx Studies will be explored in relation to literature written primarily but not exclusively in the 20th and 21st centuries by writers residing throughout the Americas. We'll examine recent, innovative studies being published by contemporary scholars working with Hemispheric methods across several fields. We'll also consider the politics of academic field formation, debating the theories and uses of a method that takes the American hemisphere as its primary frame yet does not take the U.S. as the default point of departure; and the conceptual and political limitations of such an approach. No knowledge of Spanish, French, or Portuguese is required. (20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 42103, ENGL 42103, LACS 42103

**CMLT 42311. The World in Ruins. 100 Units.**

In this course we will not limit ourselves to the traditional view of 'ruins' as remains of ancient or modern buildings. Our course will involve a variety of different artifacts (literary texts, paintings, films, philosophical tracts, etc.) from different cultural moments, in order to attain a clearer understanding of our notion of ruins, decay, and decadence. We will first examine 'ruins' in classical cultures, focusing on Plutarch's short treatise *On the Obsolescence of Oracles*. We will investigate the 'discovery' of ruins in the Renaissance through Petrarch's *Letters on Familiar Matters*, his *canzoniere*, and his epic poem *Africa*, Francesco Colonna's verbal/visual *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (*The Strife of Love in a Dream*), and Joaquim De Bellay's *The Antiquities of Rome*. 17th-century approach to ruins and decay will focus on Benjamin's texts (*Origins of the German Tragic Drama* among others), Agamben's response to Benjamin in *Man Without Content*, and European poetry and paintings. After an analysis of Piranesi's famous etchings *Vedute di Roma*, we will approach Romanticism through Leopardi's and Hölderlin's works. There will be a screening of Pasolini's *The Walls of Sana'a* (1970), which will open our discussion of the concepts of decay and annihilation in modern times. We will read Curzio Malaparte's novel *The Skin* and W. G. Sebald's *On the Natural History of Destruction*, Césaire's *Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter*, and the recent *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch*.

Instructor(s): A. Maggi

Note(s): Taught in English. Course not offered in 24-25.

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 26210, CMLT 26211, ITAL 36210

**CMLT 42503. Renaissance Humanism. 100 Units.**

Humanism in the Renaissance was an ambitious project to repair what idealists saw as a fallen, broken world by reviving the lost arts of antiquity. Their systematic transformation of literature, education, art, religion, architecture, and science dramatically reshaped European culture, mixing ancient and medieval and producing the foundations of modern thought and society. Readings focus on primary sources: Petrarch, Poggio, Ficino, Pico, Castiglione, and Machiavelli, with a historiographical review of major modern treatments of the topic. We will discuss the history of the book, cultural and intellectual history, and academic writing skills especially planning the dissertation as a book and writing and submitting articles to journals.

Instructor(s): A. Palmer Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Upper-level undergraduates with consent of instructor. Students with Latin, Greek, Italian, French, Spanish, or German will have the opportunity to use them.

Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 42514, ITAL 42503, HIST 42503

**CMLT 42900. Cinema in Africa. 100 Units.**

This course examines Africa in film as well as films produced in Africa. It places cinema in Sub Saharan Africa in its social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts ranging from neocolonial to postcolonial, Western to Southern Africa, documentary to fiction, art cinema to TV, and includes films that reflect on the impact of global trends in Africa and local responses, as well as changing racial and gender identifications. We will begin with *La Noire de...* (1966), by the "father" of African cinema, Ousmane Sembene, contrasted w/ a South African film, *African Jim* (1960) that more closely resembles African American musical film, and anti-colonial and anti-apartheid films from Lionel Rogosin's *Come Back Africa* (1959) to Sarah Maldoror's *Sambizanga*, Sembene's *Camp de Thiaroye*

(1984), and Jean Marie Teno's *Afrique, Je te Plumerai* (1995). The rest of the course will examine 20th and 21st century films such as *I am a not a Witch* and *The wound* (both 2017), which show tensions between urban and rural, traditional and modern life, and the implications of these tensions for women and men, Western and Southern Africa, in fiction, documentary and fiction film. (20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): One or more of the following: Intro to Film/ International Cinema AND/OR Intro to African Studies or equivalent

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 34201, ENGL 27600, GNSE 28602, RDIN 37600, CMLT 22900, ENGL 47600, CMST 24201, RDIN 27600, GNSE 48602

#### **CMLT 42918. Exploratory Translation. 100 Units.**

Translation is one of the central mechanisms of literary creativity across the world. This course will offer opportunities to think through both the theory and practice of this art form and means of cultural transmission, focusing on the problems of translation of and by poets in a variety of languages: it will emphasize precisely the genre most easily "lost in translation," as the truism goes. Topics to be discussed will include semantic and grammatical interference, loss and gain, the production of difference, pidgin, translationese, bilingualism, self-translation, code-switching, translation as metaphor, foreignization vs. nativization, and distinct histories of translation. Alongside seminar sessions for discussion of readings, workshop sessions patterned on Creative Writing pedagogy will offer students a chance to try their hands at a range of tactics of translation. We also hope to invite a few poets and translators to engage in dialogues about the art (these visits conditioned on funding that we are currently seeking). The course therefore engages with such fields as linguistics, literary study, creative writing, psychology, and anthropology. Its thematic and methodological implications reach across the humanities and social sciences.

Instructor(s): Jennifer Scappettone, Haun Saussy Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 42918, SCTH 42918, RLLT 42918, MAPH 42918, CRWR 42918

#### **CMLT 43121. Translation Theory and Practice. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to the field of Translation Studies and its key concepts, including fidelity, equivalence, and untranslatability, as well as the ethics and politics of translation. We will investigate the metaphors and models that have been used to think about translation and will consider translation as a transnational practice, exploring how "world histories" may be hidden within "word histories," as Emily Apter puts it. In the process, we will assess theories of translation and poetry from classical antiquity to the present; compare multiple translations of the same text; and examine notable recent translations. Students will carry out translation exercises and create a final translation project of their own.

Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 43121, CRWR 43121, CRWR 51503

#### **CMLT 43301. Comparative Mystical Literature: Islamic, Jewish and Christian. 100 Units.**

The mysticisms of the three monotheistic faiths share many features that invite comparison. All three deal with sacred texts that overlap in instances, and all three responded in different ways to the philosophical mysticisms inherited from Classical antiquity. While there are a number of influences, both direct and indirect, among these traditions, there are far more instances of similar structural motifs shared by the three. This course is designed to explore the history and structural dynamics of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic mysticisms through the careful reading of primary sources across the traditions. The Class will be limited to 20 students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each student will be expected to demonstrate reading competence in the language of one of the mystical traditions (e. g., Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Latin, or one of the Christian vernaculars).

Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 43301, HCHR 43302, HIJD 43301, RLIT 43303

#### **CMLT 43995. Comparative Issues in Monotheistic Mystical Traditions. 100 Units.**

The mysticisms of the three monotheistic faiths share many features that invite comparison. All three deal with sacred texts that overlap in instances, and all three responded in different ways to the philosophical mysticisms inherited from Classical antiquity. While there are a number of influences, both direct and indirect, among these traditions, there are far more instances of similar structural motifs shared by the three. This course is designed to explore the history and structural dynamics of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic mysticisms through the careful reading of primary sources across the traditions.

Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 43995, HIJD 43995, RLIT 43995, HCHR 43995

#### **CMLT 44000. Cultura visual y esclavitud en Iberoamérica. 100 Units.**

La esclavitud en las Américas no fue únicamente un sistema de organización socio-económica fundamentado en el trabajo coactivo. Este también conllevó la gestación de complejas y heterogéneas formas de producción cultural. En el contexto del moderno sistema de la plantación, ello en parte implicó una inédita articulación filosófica de las relaciones entre poder, raza y cuerpo, sofisticadas formas sincréticas de musicalidad y religiosidad populares, así como la producción de numerosas representaciones artísticas en las que se simbolizaron las conflictivas y a veces insólitas relaciones entre amos y esclavos. En este seminario nos enfocaremos en una serie de artefactos en los que se dramatiza puntualmente la intersección entre cultural visual y dominación esclavista en el mundo iberoamericano, prestándole especial atención a sus encuadres transatlánticos y a sus relaciones con los proyectos de constitución nacional en el siglo XIX. Nuestro objetivo es identificar el lugar de lo visual al interior de las cultura de la esclavitud --las lógicas de sus funcionamientos-- a partir del reconocimiento de algunas de sus zonas menos estudiadas. Examinaremos una selección de

expresiones relativas a la "alta" pintura, las dimensiones visuales de los reglamentos de esclavos, ciertas modalidades performativas de las prácticas evangélicas y del teatro popular, y la dialéctica de lo visible y lo invisible en narrativas de esclavos y en algunas producciones efímeras de la cultura material.

Instructor(s): Agnes Lugo-Ortiz Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Taught in Spanish. Open to advanced undergraduates with consent of instructor.

Equivalent Course(s): CRES 44000, SPAN 44000, LACS 44000

#### **CMLT 44410. Practices of Classicism in the French Seventeenth Century. 100 Units.**

This seminar has two goals. One is to combine the text-based tradition of French literary studies with the image-based, comparative tradition of art history-and, in so doing, to change the taxonomies of both. The other is to re-evaluate French Classicism by attending to practices of reading, writing, performing, looking and making. The seminar's breadth is designed to appeal to all graduate students interested in the theory and history of aesthetics, and the interweaving of visual and literary evidence. Looking will be no less important than reading, as we will conduct sessions with original objects in the Art Institute and in Regenstein Special Collections. Authors studied will include Corneille, Molière, La Fontaine, Pascal, and Descartes; among the artists, Poussin, Claude Lorrain, La Tour, and Callot. Critical readings will range from Leo Spitzer to Louis Marin and Foucault. The seminar will be conducted in English; all primary texts will be made available in both English translation and, for those with reading knowledge, in the French original. This seminar will travel to Paris during exam week (March 13-21, 2020); airfare and lodging covered by university. Consent of instructors required.

Instructor(s): Larry Norman and Richard Neer Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 44420, CDIN 44420, FREN 34420, ARTH 45885

#### **CMLT 45602. Zionism and Culture, 1881 to the Present. 100 Units.**

This course investigates the shifting relations between Hebrew/Israeli literature and culture and Zionism as a political project, ideology, myth, and power structure. We will investigate multiple forms of cultural articulation, from built environment, to popular culture, to culture as a set of practices that govern everyday life, while devoting special attention to poetry - an institution valorized by classical secularist Zionism yet one often seen as standing in tension with Zionism's contemporary religious-nationalist forms. What role has Hebrew culture played within the Zionist project, as bearer, expression, reflection, or refraction of nationalist ideology or myth? What are the relationships between culture's putative forms of autonomy and forms of dissent, resistance, or alternative political vision in Israel and Palestine? How might this connect to Mizrahi and other 'minority' identities, and the roles of Palestinians as cultural producers within Israeli frames? What is to be learned about secular nationalism, Jewish secularism, post-secularism, religiosity, and political theology particularly in an era of what seems to be the rising hegemony of expressly religious Zionism.

Instructor(s): Na'ama Rokem and Kenneth Moss Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisites. Undergraduates must receive faculty consent.

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 45602, CDIN 45602, HIST 45602

#### **CMLT 46100. Beyond the Blanks of History: When Women of Color Reclaim the Narrative. 100 Units.**

History" is skewed and incomplete. It leaves out as much as it reveals. As they relegate past suffering to oblivion, historical omissions perpetuate the violence that they seek to hide. And this violence is often felt on multiple levels by women of color who find themselves imbricated within (neo)colonial, patriarchal, heteronormative, classist and ableist societal structures. In this course, we will situate ourselves at the intersection of literature, history and gender studies. We will explore the following questions together: Faced with the blind spots of history, how can literature function as an alternative archive that draws attention to the invisibilized stories of women of color? Simultaneously, how does literature sensitize us to the impossibility of fully knowing the past, no matter how hard we try? Course material may include theoretical texts, fiction, poetry, songs, podcasts, film, graphic novels and social media material. Potential examples include Saidiya Hartman's "Lose Your Mother" (2007), Gina Prince-Bythewood's *The Woman King* (2022), Gaiutra Bahadur's *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture* (2013), Nathacha Appanah's *La Mémoire Délavée* (2023), Lia Brozgal's *Absent the Archive: Cultural Traces of a Massacre in Paris, 17 October 1961* (2022), Marie Clements' *Bones of Crows* (2022), and Natasha Kanapé Fontaine's poetry.

Instructor(s): Nikhita Obeegadoo Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Advanced undergraduates with appropriate experience in the subject may petition for admission.

Note(s): Taught in English. All course material will be available in English, though students are encouraged to engage with original materials. Work may be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 46001, RDIN 46000, FREN 46000

#### **CMLT 46202. Performance Theory: Action, Affect, Archive. 100 Units.**

This seminar offers a critical introduction to performance theory organized around three conceptual clusters: a) action, acting, and forms of production or play, in theories from classical (Aristotle) through modern (Hegel, Brecht, Artaud), to contemporary (Richard Schechner, Philip Zarilli, others); b) affect, and its intersections with emotion and feeling; in addition to contemporary theories of affect and emotion we will read earlier modern texts that anticipate recent debates (Diderot, Freud) and their current interpreters (Joseph Roach, Erin Hurley and others), as well as those writing about the absence of affect and the performance of failure (Sara Bailes etc); and c) archives and related institutions and theories of recording performance, including the formation of audiences (Susan Bennett) and evaluating print and other media recording ephemeral acts, including the work of theorists of memory (Pierre Nora) and remains (Rebecca Schneider; Mark Fleishman), theatre historians (Rose Bank, Ellen Mackay etc) and tensions between archive and repertoire (Diana Taylor).(20th/21st)



Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Note: This course is intended only for those who have completed their undergraduate degree.

Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 46202, CMST 38346, ENGL 46202

**CMLT 46677. American Jewish Literature. 100 Units.**

Is there an American Jewish literature? At the heart of this question is a reckoning with what constitutes American Jewish experience. Literary expression has played an outsized role in the way that American Jews view themselves, exploring a vocabulary and an idiom of immigration and religion, of ethnic identity and of political consciousness. In this class we will study a selection of the fiction, poetry, essays and films of American Jewish experience with an eye towards the varieties of American-Jewish experience and the role of literature in forging that experience.

Instructor(s): Sheila Jelen Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course meets the LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 46677, RLST 26677, AMER 46677, AMER 26677, JWSC 26677, CMLT 26677, HIJD 46677

**CMLT 46905. Performance Theory. 100 Units.**

This course offers a critical introduction to theories of performance and performativity across a transnational scope. We will read theories of performance that explore the relationship between text, body and audience alongside the history of performative theory and its afterlives in queer and affect theory. Drawing on comparative literary method, this course presents texts both within and beyond the Euro-American canon, across languages, and across disciplines to consider how empire and post-coloniality, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality shape performances and the publics that they address. We will think about the relationship between performance and politics and how performance as both an aesthetic genre and theoretical concept shapes the relationship between text, language, and embodied experience and explore the role of the spectator and their participatory function in the making of performances.

Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 46905, TAPS 46900, GNSE 46905

**CMLT 47201. History of Criticism: 16th-19th Centuries. 100 Units.**

The second of a two-course sequence that offers a survey of major historical moments in the theory of interpretation. The course will pursue the thesis that the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries are dominated by three cardinal moments in the sociology of modern knowledge: the emergence of the figure of "the critic"; the articulation of "aesthetics" as an independent mode of thought; and the establishment of historical-critical methodology as prerequisite to understanding, and in turn properly interpreting, the Bible. Prerequisite: completion of the first course in the sequence. Required of Ph.D. students taking the RLVC 1 exam.

Instructor(s): Richard Rosengarten Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): RLVC 47200

**CMLT 48017. Phaedras Compared: Adaptation, Gender, Tragic Form. 100 Units.**

This seminar places Racine's French neoclassical tragedy *Phaedra* within a wide-ranging series of adaptations of the ancient myth, from its Greek and Latin sources (Euripides, Seneca, Ovid) to twentieth-century and contemporary translations and stage adaptations (Ted Hughes, Sarah Kane), read along with a series of theoretical and critical texts. Particular attention will be paid to critical paradigms and approaches in the evolving fields of classical reception studies, theater and performance studies, and gender studies. Reading knowledge of French strongly preferred.

Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 48017, TAPS 48017, FREN 48017, CDIN 48017, CLAS 48017

**CMLT 48616. Hölderlin and the Greeks. 100 Units.**

The German poet Friedrich Hölderlin submitted to the paradoxical double-bind of Johann Joachim Winckelmann's injunction that "the only way for us [Germans] to become great or - if this is possible - inimitable, is to imitate the ancients." As he wrote in his short essay "The standpoint from which we should consider antiquity," Hölderlin feared being crushed by the originary brilliance of his Greek models (as the Greeks themselves had been), and yet foresaw that modern European self-formation must endure the ordeal of its encounter with the Greek Other. The faculty of the imagination was instrumental to the mediated self-formation of this *Bildung* project, for imagination alone was capable of making Greece a living, vitalizing, presence on the page. Our seminar will therefore trace the work of poetic imagination in Hölderlin's texts: the spatiality and mediality of the written and printed page, and their relation to the temporal rhythms of lived experience. All texts will be read in English translation, but a reading knowledge of German and/or Greek would be desirable.

Equivalent Course(s): CLAS 48616, GRMN 48616

**CMLT 48647. Trauma and Narrative. 100 Units.**

This graduate seminar invites students to engage with literary trauma studies, a field that first emerged in the 1990s, and that has more recently been undergoing decolonization processes. Following calls by scholars such as Stef Craps in *Postcolonial Witnessing* (2013), we will examine foundational and current literary theory by questioning its validity and applicability across different cultural contexts and languages. We will read select fictional trauma narratives, in English translation or in the original language when possible. Readings will include select psychological and psychoanalytical theoretical literature from Judith L. Herman and Cathy Caruth to Bessel van der Kolk; (literary) theory by Ruth Leys, Lauren Berlant and Stef Craps, as well as fictional texts, largely from non-Euro-Anglo-American contexts. Students working on trauma-related literary projects are



welcome to contribute materials in their respective research languages. We will end the course by bridging discussions of literary trauma studies with recent debates around a pedagogy of trauma, especially as applicable the context of higher education. Students need to be available for 2 synchronous online meetings per week.

Instructor(s): Nisha Kommattam Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 48647

**CMLT 48852. Proust: first two volumes of *La Recherche*. 100 Units.**

TBD

Instructor(s): Françoise Meltzer Terms Offered: Autumn

**CMLT 49002. Ekphrasis: Description, Vision and Imagination in Art and Religion. 100 Units.**

This course explores the rich traditions of the description - ekphrasis -- from Greco-Roman antiquity to modernity. It tackles texts (both prose and verse) in order to establish the ramifications of a genre in the European tradition, and its applications in particular to visual culture and religion. There will be opportunity in the final paper to range beyond these into questions of comparative literature, art (history) writing, religious imagination and ekphrasis in all periods or contexts, as well as into the use of images or films as themselves forms of descriptive response. The course is primarily intended for graduates but interested undergraduates are welcome. The course will be taught over 5 weeks in the Spring Quarter on an intensive schedule. It will be examined on the basis of a paper, due on a subject to be agreed and on a date to be agreed at the end of the Spring quarter.

Instructor(s): Jaś Elsner and Françoise Meltzer Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Note: Consent of instructor required for undergraduates; email Professors Meltzer and Elsner a paragraph long description about what you bring and what you hope to get out of this seminar. (CDI seminar enrollment is capped at 18 students.)

Equivalent Course(s): DVPR 49002, CDIN 49002, ARTH 40401, RLVC 49002

**CMLT 49003. Islam Beyond the Human: Spirits, Demons, Devils, and Ghosts. 100 Units.**

This seminar explores the diverse spiritual and sentient lifeforms within Islamic cosmology that exist beyond the human-from jinn, angels, and ghosts to demons and devils. We will focus on theological, scientific, philosophical, anthropological, and historical accounts of these creatures across a variety of texts, as well as their literary and filmic afterlives in contemporary cultural representations. In so doing, we consider the various religious, social, and cultural inflections that shape local cosmological imaginaries. We ask how reflecting on the nonhuman world puts the human itself in question, including such concerns as sexuality and sexual difference, the boundaries of the body, reason and madness, as well as the limits of knowledge.

Instructor(s): Alireza Doostdar and Hoda El Shakry Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment by Consent Only (for both grads and undergrads). Students should send the instructors a paragraph explaining their interest and prior preparation or familiarity with the themes in the course.

Note(s): This course meets the LMCS or SCSR Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): KNOW 49003, NEHC 49003, GNSE 29003, NEHC 29003, ANTH 49003, GNSE 49003, AASR 49003, CMLT 29003, ISLM 49003, ANTH 29003, RLST 29003

**CMLT 49999. Graduate Comparative Literature Workshop. 100 Units.**

Graduate writing workshop for Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature aimed at cultivating familiarity and fluency with various genres of writing in the academy-from seminar papers, conference presentations, and journal articles, to doctoral degree documents as well as fellowship and academic job market materials. Enrolled students will have the opportunity to share and individually workshop works-in-progress, while attending to the craft of producing creative, engaging, and persuasive scholarly writing. In addition to tackling the various stages of academic writing development, editing, and revision, we will address practical aspects of the writing process-such as writing habits, challenges, and technologies.

Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn

**CMLT 50007. Michel Foucault: *Les aveux de la chair*. 100 Units.**

The last volume of Foucault's history of sexuality has finally been published after more than a 30 year wait. In this volume Foucault moves from his previous focus on Greco-Roman culture to early Christianity, and his account culminates in an extensive discussion of Saint Augustine. This seminar will consist of a close reading of *Les Aveux de la chair*, supplemented by a few other texts from the later Foucault. We will also try to draw some general methodological and philosophical conclusions from our reading.

Instructor(s): A. Davidson Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Good reading knowledge of French and familiarity with the previous volumes of Foucault's "Histoire de la sexualité". All students interested in enrolling in this course should send an application to [wweaver@uchicago.edu](mailto:wweaver@uchicago.edu) by 12/14/2018. Applications should be no longer than one page and should include name, email address, phone number, and department or committee. Applicants should briefly describe their background and explain their interest in, and their reasons for applying to, this course.

Equivalent Course(s): DVPR 50007, FREN 40007, PHIL 50007

**CMLT 50101. The Problem with Theory. 100 Units.**

This graduate course offers a critical introduction to comparative theoretical methods by attending to theory's political and epistemological antagonisms and how they have shaped the ways in which we read literature and art. The seminar begins by tracing critical theory's historical contours-from the high theory boom of the 70s and 80s and the rise of postcolonial, performance, and queer theory in the 90s and 2000s to contemporary critical

theory in a comparative context. The course thus attends to problems in thinking about critical theory's scope, boundaries, and canons, as not only as a mode of doing thought but as a site for disciplinary and institutional critique. The seminar explores how theory has both emerged from and animates the worldliness of literature and art as textured imprints of historicity, imagination, and experience across social, cultural and political contexts.

Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course fulfills the fall core requirement for first-year Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature.

Equivalent Course(s): CRES 50101, GNSE 50102, ENGL 50101

#### **CMLT 50104. Blood Libel: Damascus to Riyadh. 100 Units.**

This course examines the Blood-Libel from the thirteenth-century to the present, with special focus upon the Damascus Affair of 1840 and its repercussions in the modern Middle Eastern and European contexts and in polemics today among Muslims, Christians and Jews. We will review cases and especially upon literary and artistic representations of ritual murder and sacrificial consumption alleged to have been carried out by Waldensians, Fraticelli, witches, and Jews, with special attention to the forms of redemptive, demonic, and symbolic logic that developed over the course of the centuries and culminated in the wake of the Damascus Affair. Each participant will be asked to translate and annotate a sample primary text, ideally one that has not yet been translated into English, and to use that work as well in connection with a final paper.

Instructor(s): M. Sells Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): Willingness to work on a text from one of the following languages--Latin, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Hungarian, Russian, Arabic, Modern Greek, or Turkish--at whatever level of proficiency one has attained. This course fulfills the autumn core requirement for first year PhDs in Comparative Literature

Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 41610

#### **CMLT 50107. Literary Theory: Auerbach's Mimesis. 100 Units.**

The focus of this seminar will be Erich Auerbach's *Mimesis*, a book often held up as foundational and paradigmatic for the discipline of comparative literature. Close reading of its twenty chapters together with excerpts from its objects of study (from Homer to Virginia Woolf) will be framed by readings and discussion on the contexts of its production, the history of its reception, the limitations that have been imputed to its presuppositions and biases, and the generative potentials and significances it might continue to make available to the current and future practice of literary comparison.

Terms Offered: Autumn

#### **CMLT 50201. Pre-modern Critical Theory: Theory, Critique, and the Making of the Past. 100 Units.**

This course introduces students to ancient, medieval, and early modern literary theory and to modern engagements with these theoretical interventions. We will explore how communities in the past imagined their practices of reading, writing, and interpretation-with especial emphasis on scriptural exegesis-but also what constituted a text, in the first place. How, indeed, were these practices foundational to the formation of communities and, in turn, to alterity? And what role do these literary theories and practices play in longer histories of "theory" and "critique." Staging dialogues between the past and the present, this course will ask what the political implications of designating an archive as "ancient," "archaic," "medieval," or "premodern" are in order to understand how and why the past is continually made and remade.

Instructor(s): Kris Trujillo Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): This course fulfills the winter core requirement for first-year Ph.D. students in Comparative Literature.

Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 50201, RLVC 50201

#### **CMLT 50204. Destruction of Images, Books & Artifacts in Europe and S. Asia. 100 Units.**

The course offers a comparative perspective on European and South Asian iconoclasm. In the European tradition, iconoclasm was predominantly aimed at images, whereas in South Asian traditions it was also enacted upon books and buildings. The combination of these traditions will allow us to extend the usual understanding of iconoclasm as the destruction of images to a broader phenomenon of destruction of cultural artifacts and help question the theories of image as they have been independently developed in Europe and South Asia, and occasionally in conversation with one another. We will ask how and why, in the context of particular political imaginaries and material cultures, were certain objects singled out for iconoclasm? Also, who was considered to be entitled or authorized to commit their destruction? Through a choice of concrete examples of iconoclasm, we will query how religious and political motivations are defined, redefined, and intertwined in each particular case. We will approach the iconoclastic events in Europe and South Asia through the lenses of philology, history, and material culture. Class discussions will incorporate not only textual materials, but also the close collaborative study of images, objects, and film. Case studies will make use of objects in the Art Institute of Chicago and Special Collections at the University Library.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 40204, SALC 50204, CDIN 50204, RLVC 50204, HREL 50204

#### **CMLT 53400. Salvage Poetics: Literature as Ethnography. 100 Units.**

This interdisciplinary course will synthesize ethnographic and literary discourses to consider the ways in which the culture of the Jewish "shtetl," the small towns and villages in eastern Europe where Jewish culture thrived for nearly a millennium, has been represented in the United States after the Holocaust, from the 1940s to the present day. We will read a wide variety of materials within the field of anthropology as well as Jewish literatures and cultures to tease out the concept of "salvage poetics" or a literary poetics that has been forged in popular attempts to bridge dramatically different historical moments, different geographic locations, and different cultures across the abyss of the Holocaust.

Instructor(s): Sheila Jelen Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course meets the LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.

Equivalent Course(s): AASR 53400, ANTH 53401, RLVC 53400, REES 43400, HIJD 53400

**CMLT 58613. Poetry of the Americas. 100 Units.**

In what tangled ways does poetry transform through dialogue across linguistic and geographical distances, and through performance, translation, and collaboration? This seminar takes a comparative, hemispheric approach to 20th- and 21st-century poetics from the Southern Cone to the Caribbean to Canada, with significant attention to Latinx poets. We will examine developments in poetic form, especially transformations of the epic and the lyric, in conjunction with questions of modernization, globalization, and colonialism, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender. This course is held in tandem with Fall quarter events including Chicago's Lit & Luz Festival, which stages Mexican-U.S. artistic collaborations. Seminar members will have the opportunity for dialogue with poets and translators who visit our seminar and/or give poetry readings on campus. (No knowledge of Spanish, French, or Portuguese is required.) (20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): SPAN 48613, ENGL 58613

**CMLT 70000. Advanced Study: Comparative Literature. 100 Units.**

Advanced Study: Comparative Literature

**CMLT 75000. Advanced Research. 300.00 Units.**

TBD

Terms Offered: Autumn

