FRIES CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

MISSION
The Fries Center for Global Studies is committed to helping all members of the Wesleyan community achieve the knowledge, language skills, and sensitivity each person will need in order to exercise effective and responsible citizenship in an increasingly interdependent world.

VISION
Our emphasis on intercultural communication, experience, and knowledge reflects the value we place on adaptability, compassion, and cultural self-awareness with respect to the world beyond our borders. These qualities and practices put Wesleyan’s liberal arts program at the forefront of global education and are the hallmark of responsible global citizenship.

GOALS & STRATEGIES
The Fries Center for Global Studies pursues its goals by drawing on resources at hand: the Wesleyan curriculum, faculty, student body, and staff; the Office of Study Abroad; Fellowships; Language and Intercultural Learning; and Language Resources and Technology. Our strategies are designed specifically to:

- Identify and expand opportunities for students and faculty wishing to pursue a global perspective in the field of their choice;
- Offer the support needed for each department, program, center, and college to develop global perspectives in accordance with its own aims and in partnership with other academic units;
- Provide a forum for inquiry and debate concerning the pedagogies and administrative strategies best suited to the cultural demands of the contemporary world;
- Help students transcend disciplines while coordinating their curricular, cocurricular, and extracurricular experiences in accordance with the demands of a global education;
- Increase the mobility of the Wesleyan student body and faculty in support of a more vibrant cross-cultural debate and in accordance with the needs and goals of each academic unit;
- Increase the vibrancy of global discussions on campus through facilitating visits to campus by key scholars, artists, and activists;
- Promote relevant partnerships with peer institutions in the United States and with targeted institutions abroad;
- Promote collaborative teaching and research across disciplinary and cultural boundaries;
- Develop curricular opportunities that will allow students to develop a global education tailored to their needs and aspirations.

FACULTY
Abderrahman Aissa
BA, University of Colorado Boulder; MA, University of Colorado Boulder
Adjunct Assistant Professor in Arabic

H.M FazaleHaq
MA, University of New Mexico
Assistant Professor of the Practice in Hindi/Urdu

ARABIC

ARAB101 Elementary Arabic I
This course is a first-year elementary I course in modern standard Arabic (MSA) that will introduce students to the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In this level, the class will focus on speaking as an effective way of learning (speak it to learn it). Students will learn Arabic letters and their sounds, write and create basic words and sentences, and be able to converse basic dialogues comfortably in the target language. Oral drills and speaking activities will be done in the classroom, and the class will be conducted primarily in Arabic.
Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: None

ARAB102 Intermediate Arabic II
This course is a second-year, lower intermediate course in modern standard Arabic (MSA) that will continue to stress the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course will focus on speaking as an effective way of learning (speak it to learn it). Students will continue to learn MSA grammar, write and create paragraphs, and begin to converse comfortably in the target language. Students are expected to develop better listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Arabic and to become familiar with Arabic culture. Oral drills and speaking activities will be done in the classroom, and the class will be conducted primarily in Arabic.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: ARAB101

ARAB201 Intermediate Arabic I
This course is a second-year, upper intermediate course in modern standard Arabic (MSA) that will continue to focus on the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In this level, students will be able to speak enough Arabic to communicate at a basic level with a native speaker on a variety of topics. Students should be able to write simple texts on everyday themes and read uncomplicated authentic texts, such as a newspaper article on a familiar topic and storybooks. Students will continue to be familiarized with aspects of contemporary life and culture in the Arab world. Oral drills and speaking activities will be done in the classroom, and the class will be conducted primarily in Arabic.
Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: ARAB101 AND ARAB102

ARAB202 Intermediate Arabic II
This course is a second-year, upper intermediate course in modern standard Arabic (MSA) that will continue to focus on the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In this level, students will be able to speak Arabic comfortably enough to communicate with a native speaker on a variety of topics. Students should be able to write simple texts on everyday themes and read uncomplicated authentic texts on familiar or concrete topics, as well as newspaper articles and storybooks. Culture will continue to be integrated in the classroom. The class will be conducted primarily in Arabic.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
CGST 121 Contemporary Social Issues, Leadership, and Scholarship
The overarching purpose for this course is for you to reflect on how your identity (who you say you are) motivates the actions you take now, which, in turn, shape your long-term goals and commitments. This course is particularly applicable to future national and international fellowship applicants, as almost every scholarship foundation asks similar questions (in one form or another): Who are you? What are you proposing to do? In what way are you the most qualified candidate? Why is this work important?
This course will incorporate best practices for writing personal statements and include theories and best practice for this specific writing style as well as a wide array of perspectives to supplement self-reflection, personal development, and skill building.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

CGST 131B Writing About Places: Africa
This course is one in a series called "writing about places" that explore the long tradition of writing about travel and places and changing attitudes toward crossing cultural borders. We will examine historical and cultural interactions/confrontations as portrayed by both insiders and outsiders, residents and visitors, colonizers and colonized—and from a variety of perspectives: fiction, literary journalism, travel accounts, and histories. Writing assignments will include critical and analytical essays as well as encouraging students to examine their own experiences with places and cultural encounters.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL 131B
Prereq: None

CGST 132 Writing Medicine and the Doctor-Writer
In this course students read a range of works across a variety of literary traditions, mainly by writers who were also medical practitioners (including Chekhov, Bulgakov, Lu Xun, William Carlos Williams, and Che Guevara), but also nondoctors who write compellingly about medically related subjects (Camus in THE PLAGUE, Tracy Kidder on Paul Farmer, and Anne Fadiman on cultural clashes).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL 132
Prereq: None

CGST 136 Writing for Fellowships
National fellowships are prestigious, competitive awards that enable the recipient to pursue graduate study, a research project, or travel abroad. While fellowship winners experience great personal growth and gain credentials that aid future success, preparing the application itself helps students clarify their goals and learn how to present themselves to an unfamiliar audience, such as future employers. In this course students will learn about various fellowship opportunities, identify steps toward building a strong candidacy, and create a portfolio of compelling application materials. To inspire creative thinking, we will read short writings in various genres; authors may include Octavia Butler, Jose Antonio Vargas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, N.K. Jemisin, Ursula Le Guin, and Ocean Vuong. We will then craft personal statements and other fellowship materials, taking them through a rigorous writing process with multiple revisions. By completing the course students will grow as writers and gain skills that can also be used in writing grants and seeking a job.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

CGST 201 Crossing Identities & Borders: Processing Study Abroad
This course is designed to give students who have studied abroad through the medium of a language other than English the opportunity to process their experience by reflecting on its meaning in terms of their own personal and intellectual trajectory. Students will meet as a group once a week to discuss a reading of common interest. The second weekly meeting or workshop will be held in break-out sessions in the target language, during which time students will discuss the capstone project that this course will allow them to develop: a written essay, a digital narrative, an art installation, or a performance. The workshops are designed so that students may support each other in the pursuit
of their personal goals regarding a project that reflects the broadest and deepest meaning of an immersive linguistic and intercultural experience abroad. Assessment is based on the following criteria: industry and initiative; the ability to work independently; willingness to contribute actively to a collective, project-based learning experience; and the final project. Readings will address topics such as identity, culture and mobility. Students will work to develop a collective bibliography with classmates as well as a specific bibliography that accords with their personal interests and objectives.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CGST
Identical With: RL&L201
Prereq: None

CGST202 Preparing to Study Abroad: Culture and Language

This course is designed to facilitate students’ preparations to study abroad during the following term. Through exploration of intercultural and language learning theories, intercultural communication strategies, and theories about culture, students will build a foundation for their learning and achieving their individual goals during the semester abroad. The course is open to those who are studying abroad in English as well as those who are studying a language. The course is graded at the end of the term, but ungraded check-ins during the study abroad experience are required for the credit to be awarded.

Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CGST
Prereq: None

CGST203 Returning from Study Abroad: Integrating Your Experience

This course will facilitate returning students’ integration of the study abroad experience into their academic and personal lives. Through guided activities, readings, and weekly writing assignments, students will reflect on the many facets of the study abroad experience and how they relate to identity, academic interests, and future plans, including fellowship applications and career opportunities abroad.

Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CGST
Prereq: CGST202

CGST208 ¿Convivencia o conflicto?: Las tres culturas de la España medieval a través del arte (CLAC)

For eight centuries, Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived side by side as neighbors on the Iberian Peninsula in a carefully negotiated state of coexistence known as “convivencia.” While much of the written record is full of enmity, religious polemic, and mutual suspicion, the artistic record tells another version, of lives lived in close proximity giving rise to shared cultural practices, artistic tastes, and long interludes of mutual wellbeing. This Spanish-language section complements the ARHA 310 curriculum, by exploring the resonance between medieval experiences of identity, pluralism, appropriation, and exchange and our own uneasy attempts at building a multiethnic, multicultural society. This class will be conducted in Spanish. ARHA 208 is open to intermediate and advanced Spanish learners (SPAN 113 and above), bilingual students, and heritage speakers. Enrollment in ARHA 310 is optional but encouraged.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: ARHA208
Prereq: None

CGST210 Language and Thought: Introduction to Linguistics

What makes human language unique? This course is an introduction to the study of human language and its underlying properties. Much of our linguistic competence lies below the level of conscious awareness, and linguists seek to uncover the subconscious principles and parameters that govern our knowledge of language. This course first explores the core theoretical areas of linguistics: phonology (sound structure), morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), and semantics (meaning). Then, we will explore such topics as the workings of language use, language variation, and first- and second-language acquisition.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CGST
Prereq: None

CGST227 Writing Short Fiction in Spanish

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of writing short fiction in Spanish. It will enhance their command of Spanish and their skills as effective writers through the examination and discussion of many aspects of the craft of fiction writing, which will inform students’ own writing and development of their personal style. We will examine essential features of fiction (methods of constructing narrative tension, climax, ambiguity, character, dialogues, and structure), as well as various fictional styles through our discussion of the writing of our peers and a study of the texts of a number of contemporary Latin American and Latinx writers working in a genre that has been crucial to the region’s intellectual production.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN227
Prereq: SPAN221

CGST230 Between Marx and Coca-Cola: European Cinema of the 1960s and 1970s

In the 1960s and early 1970s, a growing sense of alienation and social unrest spread across Europe, making their marks in both society and cinema. Borrowing the words of New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard, these years led to the emergence of "the children of Marx and Coca-Cola." This course, taught in English, will introduce students to a multi-faceted portrait of Europe in the 1960s and 70s through avant-garde and popular cinema from France, Italy, Spain, Germany, and Eastern Europe. We will focus on films that depict global capitalism, gender relations, and government control. Some of the themes we will discuss include the critique of consumerism and materialism, the changing role of women in society, life under socialism and dictatorship, and youth counterculture. Last but not least, students will learn how New Wave directors challenged traditional approaches to narrative cinema.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CGST
Identical With: RL&L230
Prereq: None

CGST231 Love and Suffering in Ancient Rome (CLAC)

In this CLAC course students with some background in ancient Latin will read selections of the extant sources on love and suffering in Roman myth, history, and thought. The sources that we will cover will be drawn from diverse genres and periods: historiography, epic poetry, lyric poetry, and comedy. This diversity will offer a unique opportunity to students to identify and analyze the intersections of age, class, status, gender, and ethnicity and the way they shaped Roman ideology on “love.” We will be looking at how cultural practice shapes language, how ideology shapes law, and how literature challenged cultural
norms of love and marriage, all the while unpacking and interrogating the Roman belief that love had no place in the citizen life dedicated to serving the state: love produces suffering. In turn, we will reflect on the ideological shift in the last 150 years that has come to dominate "western" beliefs on love and marriage, that is, "all you need is love," over family, friends, and society, despite the obstacles: suffering produces love.

The selections of readings will be drawn primarily from what the students read in translation in the parent course. The final selection will be based on the level of the students. This CLAC is conceived as appropriate for students on the intermediate and advanced level of ancient Latin.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: LAT230
Prereq: LAT102

CGST250 Body, Soul, and Afterlife Journeys in Ancient Greece (CLAC)
The connection between body and soul and their journey in the afterlife were at the center of how the ancient Greeks thought not only of mortality but also of the good life itself. This CLAC course is connected to the Classical Civilization course titled "Death and Afterlife in Egypt and Greece" that will be taught in the fall by Kate Birney. The parent course explores the archaeology of death and burial in Egypt and Greece. It examines how the funerary practices and the very notions of death, the soul, the body, and the afterlife operated in these societies by drawing upon diverse evidence—archaeological, art historical, and mythological.

In this CLAC course students with some background in ancient Greek will read selections of the surviving evidence on death and the afterlife. Sources will be drawn from diverse genres and periods: historiography, Homeric poetry, Platonic philosophy, and religious tablets. This diversity will offer a unique opportunity to identify different registers and to explore how language itself reflects and in turn shapes the ideas and practices for which it is used. We will thus be looking at: how different media and performances are used to express loss, hope, and heroism in the face of death; how social class, gender, and political ideology are reflected in these media and how they influence ideas about death and the afterlife; and, last, how we are to create adequate methodologies as "readers" of such diverse evidence.

The selections of readings will be drawn primarily from what the students read in translation in the parent course. The final selection will be based on the level of the students. This CLAC is conceived as appropriate for students on the intermediate and advanced level of ancient Greek.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: GRK250
Prereq: GRK102

CGST251 Classical Chinese Philosophy: Chinese Lab (CLAC)
This 0.5 credit course is conducted in Chinese and designed to supplement the standard English-language Classical Chinese Philosophy (PHIL205) course. Students must have taken PHIL205 in the past or be enrolled in it simultaneously. The course will have two main foci: introducing students to modern and contemporary Chinese-language debates about Chinese philosophy and exploring in greater depth the meaning of key passages from the classical works students are reading in translation in PHIL205.

Both advanced learners of Chinese (fourth-year level or above) and native speakers are welcome. Familiarity with classical Chinese is desirable but not required. Assignments will include presentations in Chinese and some written work in English; evaluation will be tailored to each student's language background. If you are unsure whether your language background is sufficient for the course, please contact the instructor.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CHIN351, PHIL251
Prereq: None

CGST255 Modern History and Culture of Korea: From Imperialism to Two Koreas (CLAC)
This course will serve as an introduction to the more recent history and culture of Korea; South Korea's rebirth from the remnants of a devastating war into a globalized country whose cultural influence has grown drastically since the 2000s. We will be discussing politics and diplomacy, economic development and industrialization, the growth of mass culture, and social changes concerning Korean women and family. Key topics will include the colonial period, the Korean War and national division, the struggle for democracy, and Korean pop culture. Course material will include films, dramas, and literature on these topics.

This course will be conducted in Korean. Students who have either completed three years of Korean or meet the language fluency equivalent are encouraged to take this course. Native speakers of Korean are also welcome.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: KREA255
Prereq: None

CGST265 History of Spanish Cinema for Spanish Speakers (CLAC)
Students with proficiency in Spanish and who are enrolled simultaneously in SPAN 301 will have the opportunity to further their knowledge of Spanish cinema in its cultural and historical context through secondary readings in Spanish. Discussions in this class and all written work are conducted in Spanish, and they will pertain to the films and other readings included on the syllabus for SPAN 301.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN265
Prereq: None

CGST281 Global Economy: Germany and the World in an Age of Extremes, 1870-1957 (CLAC)
This Center for Global Studies discussion course explores the experience of globalization in the German-speaking world from the war of German unification in 1870 to the emergence of the European Community in 1957. It will analyze German imperialism and overseas investment before 1914; the deglobalization of the German economy in the First World War; the problem of reparations and other economic challenges faced by the Weimar Republic; and the impact of global protectionism and the Great Depression, the economic forces allowing the rise of Hitler, the economics of war, and the Nazi "New Order." We will explore the reasons for the ultimate failure of the German war effort and the country's catastrophic destruction and defeat in 1945, as well as Germany's postwar division and occupation as well as the gradual reconstruction and reintegration of the West German economy into a European and global division of labor beginning with the Bizonal Agreement and GATT (1947), the Marshall Plan (1948), and the London German External Debt Agreement (1953), culminating in the Treaty of Rome (1957) creating the European Economic Community. The course will be using select German-language historical primary sources to explore this topic, supported by short secondary source narratives in both German and...
English pitched to intermediate to advanced German speakers/readers. Unlike the parent History lecture class (HIST 280: The Origins of Global Capitalism, 1800-present), this is a discussion course aimed at expanding vocabulary and practicing fluent discussions in the fields of history, politics, and economics.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CGST
Identical With: HIST281, GRST350
Prereq: GRST213

CGST290 Nietzsche als Versucher (CLAC)
The term "Versucher" combines three meanings: (i) a writer of essays, (ii) a maker of experiments and hypotheses, and (iii) a tempter who seductively tests convictions and provokes latent desires. Friedrich Nietzsche draws on all these senses when he proposes "Versucher" as "the not-undangerous name [he] dares to bestow" on the "philosophers of the future"—a coming generation of free spirits who will (finally) be capable of appreciating and continuing his intellectual legacy (Beyond Good and Evil, §42).

This course will interrogate Nietzsche's conception of a philosophical Versucher and examine how this concept might apply to Nietzsche himself: as an experimenter with literary style and genre (including the essay form) and as a polarizing culture figure who has attracted the fascination of generations of teenagers and the most diverse (often diametrically opposed) ideological movements. How is it that Nietzsche inspires such passionate attachment in such radically different readers? What is it about his philosophical style and literary form that cultivates a feeling of intimacy and fierce allegiance while also admitting such aggressively divergent interpretations? To explore these questions, we will read and discuss excerpts from Nietzsche's writings and correspondence alongside texts by his friends and interlocutors—such as Richard Wagner, Paul Rée, and Nietzsche's unrequited paramour, Lou Andreas-Salomé. We will also look at prominent cases of his cultural reception—notably by the Nazi party (due to the influence of Nietzsche's sister, who was a party member) and simultaneously by opponents of totalitarianism such as Robert Musil, Karl Löwith, and Walter Kaufmann.

This course is part of the Fries Center for Global Studies' Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) initiative. It is taught in German and associated with COL290/PHIL252 "Nietzsche - Science, Psychology, Genealogy," though students can take either course independent of the other. No background in philosophy or literature is required for this course, but advanced-intermediate (B2+) reading and spoken German is a must.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: GRST330, COL287, PHIL253
Prereq: None

CGST291 “Sexuality” in the Making: Gender, Law, and the Use of Pleasure in Ancient Greek Culture (CLAC)
The parent course (CCIV 281/FGSS 281) examines the construction of gender roles in ancient Greece and approaches gender as an organizing principle of private and public life in ancient Greek society by using literary, scientific, historical, and philosophical sources as well as material evidence. Issues addressed include: the creation of woman, conceptions of the male and female body, the legal status of men and women; what constitutes acceptable sexual practices and for whom (e.g., heterosexual relationships, homoeroticism, prostitution etc.); ideas regarding desire, masculinity and femininity, and their cultivation in social, political, and ritual contexts such as rituals of initiation, marriage, drinking parties (symposia), the law court, and the theater.

The textual sources used in the course cover a spectrum of genres: medical texts, Homer, lyric poetry, tragedy, comedy, law-court speeches, and philosophy among others. In the CLAC connected to this course students with some background in ancient Greek will read selections from these genres and will be able to compare different discourses and registers in the original. In the past, even through brief lexical examples—e.g., pointing at the use of ta Aphrodite (the things/matters related to Aphrodite) in a culture that has no one term/ concept for our notion of “sexuality”—students were intrigued by how different terms and discursive media in the original may offer access to perspectives, visions, and values that differ from and can, in turn, inform our own. The CLAC will create an opportunity precisely for this kind of access and a better informed and nuanced conversation.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS
Identical With: GRK291
Prereq: GRK102

CGST302 Narrating China: Chinese Lab (CLAC)
This 0.5 credit course is conducted in Chinese and designed to supplement the standard English-language Narrating China: Introduction to Modern Chinese Literature (CEAS 202) course. It allows students to encounter a selection of modern and contemporary Chinese literary texts in their original Chinese. As the parent course guides students through major literary movements and themes from 20th-century China, students in the CLAC tutorial will read poems, short stories, or excerpts of longer texts from the same periods in the original Chinese. In weekly meetings, students will discuss the readings in Chinese, to delve deeper into their stylistic and linguistic characteristics unobservable in translations.

Both advanced learners of Chinese (fourth-year level or above) and native speakers are welcome. Evaluation is based on students' preparedness, participation, and formal oral presentations, and will be tailored to students' language background. If you are unsure about whether your language background is sufficient for the course, please contact the instructor.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CHIN302
Prereq: None

CGST303 Ukraine and Its Environment
International perspectives on environmental issues are critical in order to address the challenges facing the world. Developing an international perspective requires more than learning from printed literature—it requires in-country experience and the desire to be able to view issues through different cultural lenses. This course will provide such experience by learning about the diversity of Ukrainian environments, people, and cultures both in the classroom at Wesleyan and by traveling to Ukraine during Spring Break. During our time in Ukraine we will receive lectures in English from noted scholars, politicians, professors and scientists on topics such as environmental law, global environmental security, urban environment, environmental policy in developing states, and sustainable development for the developing world. We will travel and learn from scientists at Chernobyl about the regeneration of forest ecosystems, learn from agronomists about agriculture on the steppes, and learn from politicians and scholars about Ukrainian environmental policy and their views of U.S. policies. We will also enter into round table discussions with university students to exchange ideas about potential international solutions and approaches to environmental problems. These are just some of the experiences that are planned for our visit. Ukraine, as a pivotal democracy of the former Soviet Bloc, is an amazing place to witness how a nation wrestles with dramatic changes in policy. At the same time Ukraine
is culturally diverse, which presents interesting challenges to formulating fair and cohesive policies.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: ENVS303
Prereq: ENVS197 OR E&ES199

Hindi-Urdu Language

HIUR101 Elementary Hindi-Urdu I

An introduction to the modern standard form of the most widely spoken languages in South Asia, this Hindi-Urdu language course offers comprehensive instruction in Hindi and Urdu together from the beginner’s level. Hindi, written in the Devanagari script is the official language of the Republic of India. Urdu, written in a modified form of the Perso-Arabic script called Nastaliq, is the official language of Pakistan. In their most basic spoken form, Hindi and Urdu are mutually intelligible, particularly in urban centers in north India.

Students are introduced to both writing systems: the Devanagari script of Hindi and the Nastaliq script of Urdu. The goal of this course is to provide students with a solid foundation in Hindi-Urdu script, grammar, and vocabulary, as well as the cultural awareness and practical experience necessary for basic, yet accurate and appropriate, communication in spoken and written Hindi-Urdu.

Through scaffolding techniques students will reach their potential zone of proximal development (ZPD), which is Novice-Mid, from their current ZPD, which is Novice-Low. Students will learn to confidently navigate a range of common social and “survival” situations in Hindi-Urdu by using simple sentences, short phrases, or formulaic sequences.

Upon completing this course, students will have mastered the basic constructions of Hindi-Urdu grammar and a large body of vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for many real-world interactions with Hindi-Urdu speakers.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CGST
Prereq: None

HIUR201 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu I

This course is a continuation of Elementary Hindi-Urdu I. It offers a balanced treatment of speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing skills. Through scaffolding techniques students will reach their potential zone of proximal development (ZPD), which is Novice-High, from their current ZPD, which is Novice-Mid.

At the end of the course, students will be able to communicate short messages on highly predictable, everyday topics that affect them directly. They will be able to produce lists and notes, primarily by writing words and phrases. They can provide limited formulaic information on simple forms and documents. These writers can reproduce practiced material to convey the most simple messages. In addition, they can transcribe familiar words or phrases, copy letters of the alphabet or syllables of a syllabary, or reproduce basic characters with some accuracy.

They can understand key words, true aural cognates, and formulaic expressions that are highly contextualized and highly predictable, such as those found in introductions and basic courtesies. They will be able understand words and phrases from simple questions, statements, and high-frequency commands.

Upon completing this course, students will have mastered the core constructions of Hindi-Urdu grammar and a large body of vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for many real-world interactions with Hindi-Urdu speakers.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CGST
Prereq: None
At the end of this course, students will be able to successfully handle a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Students will be able to produce some of the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture. These topics relate to basic personal information; for example, self and family, some daily activities and personal preferences, and some immediate needs, such as ordering food and making simple purchases. Students will also be able to ask a few appropriate questions; creating and writing statements and formulating questions based on familiar material.

As listeners, students will be able to understand simple, sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in a variety of basic personal and social contexts. They will develop accurate comprehension with highly familiar and predictable topics. Intermediate listeners may get some meaning from short connected texts featuring description and narration, dealing with familiar topics.

Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  
Gen Ed Area: HA-CGST  
Credits: 1.00

World Literature

WLIT222 Theater/Drama Traditions of China and Japan
This seminar offers a window into Chinese and Japanese drama and theater traditions from their beginnings to the 20th century. We engage issues of dramatic texts as well as performance practices; thus, the course draws on material from theater history, performance and acting conventions, and the literary history of drama. Readings and discussions span major genres of dramatic writing and their different modes of performance, including the Chinese dramatic genres of zaju and chaqua; Japanese performance styles of Beijing opera and Kunqu; and Japanese dramatic genres and performance practices of noh, kyogen, kabuki, and puppet theater. Throughout the course, we engage closely with dramatic texts as literature, giving detailed thematic readings to some canonical and non-canonical plays. We also consider how dramatic writing and theatrical performance relate to broader trends in sociopolitical history and literary history, exploring how dramatic texts and theatrical performance embody a multivalent and multisensory space that is unique among creative enterprises. We deal with both the actor and the text, and consider how each are considered in modern and premodern contexts. No prerequisites are required, although some prior knowledge of China or Japan is helpful.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: OPT  
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS  
Credits: 1.00

WLIT223 Narrating China: Introduction to 20th- and 21st-Century Chinese Literature
This survey course introduces students to major literary movements in 20th- and 21st-century China through selective works by representative authors. It has two major aims: (1) It invites students to explore how individual authors—at different historical moments and in different social positions—have responded to historical changes that radically unsettled their senses of self and nation and also how their literary expressions may reveal the shifting subjectivity of modern China.
and Chineseness. (2) At the same time, it introduces students to the academic discipline of literary criticism, develops or deepens students’ critical close reading and textual analysis, and invites them to discover the joy and reward of plunging into a reading experience and coming out with interpretations of their own making.

While the course does attend to important historical flash points unique to Chinese history, it also explores literary themes that resonate globally, beyond the context of modern China. Varying slightly by semester, these themes could include the relation between politics and literature, revolution and revolutionary arts, alternative modernities, writerly authority and the individual self, gendered authorship, memory and trauma, ethnic governance and resistance, class divisions, ecological damages, labor migration, etc. This course assumes no prior knowledge of China or Chinese language, and all texts will be taught using English translations.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS202
Prereq: None

WLIT224 Traditional China: Eco-civilization and Its Discontents
This course introduces students to the history of China from ancient times to the middle of the Ming Dynasty circa 1450. This is a period when China invented and reshaped its cultural identity by moving into new frontiers and creatively incorporating foreign ideas with indigenous practices. It is also a period when the natural environment was drastically transformed by agrarian civilizations and nomadic neighbors.

The course places concepts of sustainability in the center of the history of traditional China. We will draw on translations of Chinese literary texts including poetry, classical prose, and novels to explore the relationship between power and social inequities as we explore the everyday politics of agrarian civilizations through China’s transformation from feudal ages to the imperial period. Did competing regimes/dynasties create a sustainable political and economic system? Did bureaucrats improve the well-being of the population and maintain their short-term needs? How did Confucian, Legalist, Buddhist, and Daoist teachings alter the dynamics of production and consumption? To what extent did traditional Chinese philosophies promote the ethos of ecojustice?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST223, CEAS223, ENV5223
Prereq: None

WLIT241 Murder and Adultery: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the 19th-Century Russian Novel
The 19th-century novel is widely regarded as the supreme achievement of Russian literature. This course will trace its development from Pushkin’s elegant, witty novel in verse, EUGENIE ONEGIN, through the grotesque comedy of Gogol, to the realist masterpieces of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, with their complex depiction of human psychology and the philosophical struggles of late 19th-century society. We will consider the historical background in which the novels were produced and the tools developed by Russian critical theory, especially the Russian formalists and Mikhail Bakhtin, for understanding 19th-century Russian prose.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS205, REES205, RULE205

Prereq: None

WLIT242 Gogol and His Legacy: Witches, Con Men, and Runaway Noses
Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852), hailed as one of Russia’s greatest and most distinctive writers, created a phantasmagorical world of devils and witches coexisting with the gritty details of life in Ukraine, St. Petersburg, and the Russian provinces. Gogol’s satirical observations delighted socially conscious contemporary critics, while his linguistic experimentation and subversion of the rules of logic inspired later modernist writers. Roughly half of the course is devoted to major writers of the twentieth century. We will consider Gogol’s interest in the demonic; his complex identity as a bilingual writer claimed by both Ukraine and Russia as one of their greatest cultural figures; the influence of his formal and linguistic experimentation on later writers such as Dostoevsky, Nabokov, and Bulgakov, with his vision of the Devil visiting Soviet Moscow; and Gogol’s reception by modern Russian and Western writers and critics. The course is conducted in English.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS277, REES277, RULE277
Prereq: None

WLIT243 Speak, Memory: The Russian Memoir
Memoirs offer a chance for individuals to make sense of their relationship to larger historical forces and allow writers of fiction and poetry to reflect on the tensions between biography and the creative process. We will read memoirs of prison and of Stalinist terror by Fyodor Dostoevsky and Nadezhda Mandelstam; visions of childhood by Lev Tolstoy, Vladimir Nabokov, and poets Osip Mandelstam and Marina Tsvetaeva; and works of autobiography by Viktor Shklovsky and Sergey Gandlevsky that create their own worlds of literary experimentation. The course will also consider the theoretical problems of autobiographical writing. Students will write a memoir of childhood (3-5 pages) to better understand the technical problems faced by Tolstoy in writing about his childhood. Students will also write a piece of memoiristic prose, or a parody or imitation of one of the writers in the course (minimum 10 pages), as one of their three papers. We will devote one class session to a writing workshop session on the creative project.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS220, REES220, RULE220
Prereq: None

WLIT244 Dostoevsky
Dostoevsky is widely recognized as one of the world’s greatest novelists. His career begins at the end of Russian Romanticism, is interrupted by nine years of prison and exile in Siberia, and resumes at the beginning of the age of the great realist novel. Dostoevsky’s major works grapple with the themes of sin and crime, the disintegration of the family, and the difficulty of believing in God in a world full of evil.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS251, REES251, RULE251
Prereq: None

WLIT245F Otherness & Belonging (FYS)
One of the many haunting utterances of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s most famous antihero, the Underground Man, is “I am alone, I thought, and they are everyone.” Like him, the other protagonists of this course are outcasts, dissidents, and strangers - jaded office clerks and repressed misanthropes, queer
activists and "enemies of the state" - who refuse to conform to societal norms, disrupt conventions by saying the unsayable, and write and make art from the margins, the realm of undesirables. Focusing mainly on Russia and Eastern Europe, we will analyze representations of otherness and belonging in fiction, non-fiction, and film. We will explore narratives of undesirability through the thematic prisms of exile and immigration; gender and sexuality; mental illness; prison writing; ethnic difference; religion; and unrequited love. The concept of undesirability will also be our point of entry for constructing arguments about community, privilege, and a society without outsiders.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES208F, RULE208F, RUSS208F
Prereq: None

WLIT246 The Soviet Century
This course begins and ends with two of the most important dates of the 20th century. On November 7, 1917, the Bolshevik party launched a revolution against the government of the Russian Empire with the aim of overthrowing not just the state but capitalism, the economic and social system that defined modern civilization. Over the coming decades, the state they created (eventually named the USSR) embarked on an unprecedented project to transform human beings and remake the world. On December 26, 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed into 15 European and Asian countries.

The Soviet project raises fundamental questions about political systems, economics, and human nature—questions that are a long way from being answered. It also shaped modern history all over the world, including in the United States, which confronted the Soviet Union as its political and ideological archenemy during the Cold War. In charting the USSR’s trajectory from pariah nation after World War I to global superpower following World War II, we will move beyond the clichéd view of the Soviet Union as the Evil Empire. Instead, we will examine the ways in which socialist modernity offered an alternative to its capitalist twin.

In an effort to understand the contradictions of Soviet life leading up to and during the Cold War, the class will examine how the Soviets sought to rethink issues of class struggle, family structure, education, gender dynamics, race, religion, sexuality, and patriotism. We will consider the theoretical writings of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky in addition to poetry and prose by Babel, Mayakovsky, Akhmatova, Platonov, Pasternak, Tsvetaeva, Berggolts, and Nabokov, among others. Particular attention will be paid to underground cultures that arose in response to the repression of free speech, ethnic discrimination, and the Gulag prison system. All readings are in the English translation.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-REES
Identical With: REES256, RULE256, RUSS256
Prereq: None

WLIT281 Introduction to The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)
The Hebrew Bible is one of the most influential texts in the world. From antiquity to the present, it has served as a source of philosophical, literary, and artistic reflection. It is a fascinating document, combining narrative, poetry, law, prophetic proclamations, and puzzling parables. What kind of book is the Hebrew Bible? Who wrote it and why? How do we approach such a text across the distance of time? Through a systematic reading from the very beginning, we will place the Bible in its historical context while giving special attention to the philosophical and literary questions it raises: Is obedience to authority always justified? Why do good people suffer unjustly? What gender is God? In answering these and other questions, you will gain an understanding of the ways contesting interpretations make authoritative claims.