COLLEGE OF LETTERS

The College of Letters (COL) is a three-year interdisciplinary major for the study of European literature, history, and philosophy, from antiquity to the present. During these three years, students participate as a cohort in a series of five colloquia in which they read and discuss (in English) major literary, philosophical, and historical texts and concepts drawn from the three disciplinary fields, and also from monotheistic religious traditions. Majors are invited to think critically about texts in relation to their contexts and influences—both European and non-European—and in relation to the disciplines that shape and are shaped by those texts. Majors also become proficient in a foreign language and study abroad to deepen their knowledge of another culture. As a unique college within the University, the COL has its own library and workspace where students can study together, attend talks, and meet informally with their professors, whose offices surround the library.

FACULTY

Charles Barber
BA, Harvard University; MFA, Columbia University
Writer-in-Residence in Letters

Joseph J. Fitzpatrick
BA, Harvard University; PHD, Duke University
Assistant Professor of the Practice in Letters

Tushar Irani
BA, Colgate University; PHD, Northwestern University
Associate Professor of Letters; Associate Professor of Philosophy

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Professor of History; Professor of Letters; Executive Editor, History and Theory

Typhaine Leservot
BA, University of Caen; MA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; PHD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Associate Professor of French; Associate Professor of Letters; Co-Coordinator, African Studies

Ulrich Plass
MA, University of Michigan; PHD, New York University
Professor of German Studies; Chair, College of Letters; Professor, Letters

Gabrielle Piedad Ponce-Hegnauer
BA, University of Illinois Urbana; MFA, Johns Hopkins University; PHD, Johns Hopkins University
Assistant Professor of Letters

Daniel Smyth
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Assistant Professor of Letters; Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Jesse Wayne Torgerson
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Assistant Professor of Letters; Assistant Professor, Medieval Studies; Assistant Professor, History

Khachig Tölölyan
BA, Harvard University; MA, University of Rhode Island; MAA, Wesleyan University
Professor of English; Professor of Letters; Editor, Diaspora; Professor, German Studies

Kari Weil
BA, Cornell University; MA, Princeton University; PHD, Princeton University
University Professor of Letters; University Professor, College of the Environment; Co-Coordinator, Animal Studies

EMERITI

Howard I. Needler
BA, Oxford University; BS, Yale University; MA, Oxford University; PHD, Columbia University
Professor of Letters, Emeritus

Laurie Nussdorfer
BA, Yale University; MA, Princeton University; MSC, London School of Economics and Political Science; PHD, Princeton University
William Armstrong Professor of History, Emerita; Professor of Letters, Emerita

Paul Schwaber
BA, Wesleyan University; MA, University of California, Berkeley; PHD, Columbia University
Professor of Letters, Emeritus

DEPARTMENTAL ADVISING EXPERTS

Tushar Irani; Typhaine Leservot; Ethan Kleinberg; Ulrich Plass; Gabrielle Piedad Ponce-Hegnauer, Khachig Tölölyan; Jesse Torgerson; Kari Weil

• Undergraduate College of Letters Major (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/col/ugrd-col)

COL108F Language (FYS)

This course, beyond providing an introduction to the science of linguistics, is designed to give students in their first year an awareness of the importance of language in everyday life and of the range of its uses and abuses as a cultural and class marker, vehicle of knowledge, and instrument of power. It is an objective of this course that students who complete it should be better prepared than they were before for the sensitive and exacting study not only of literature but of whatever specialized studies they subsequently undertake. Topics to be considered include whether language is a cultural artifact that is learned or is instinctual; the varieties of languages; language as expression of culture; linguistic imperialism; problems of translation; the distinction between speech and writing; stenolanguage, metalanguage, and poetic language; metaphor and symbol; and semiotics.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL110 What Does Art Mean? Studies in Aesthetics and Cultural Relevance

Humans have felt compelled to make what we now call "art" for millennia; clearly, the drive to create and express is a pressing one in our species. Can we define that drive? The title of this course encompasses multiple questions. What do we mean when we say "art," and is there a way to legitimately wield or deny that designation? Does that designation have universal meaning? Is there an inherent exclusion, or exclusivity, within it? Also, what is art communicating?
COL112F The European Novel from Cervantes to Calvino (FYS)
This course provides an introductory survey that tracks the development of the European novel through its major periods—from its origins in DON QUIXOTE through the rise of the novel in 18th-century Britain to romanticism, realism, and modernism.
We will focus on texts that had tremendous impact (and long afterlives) throughout Europe, that inspired responses and imitations in many different languages, and that provided European intellectual culture with archetypal characters and plots through which problems of history, politics, and philosophy were articulated—Voltaire’s naïf and Dostoevsky’s nihilist; Defoe’s heroic bourgeois individualist and Kafka’s victim of modern bureaucratic rationality. The readings will also introduce students to some of the European novel’s important subgenres (e.g., romance, gothic, grotesque, the philosophical novel) and important narrative forms (e.g., epistolary novel, unreliable narration, free indirect discourse).
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL115 How to Read a Literary Text
This course will introduce students to the practice of close reading and to the formal study of literary texts. Working with selections of poetry and prose (including texts that have been translated from languages other than English), students will learn to analyze and make arguments according to the disciplinary methods of literary studies.
Primary readings will include texts from a wide range of historical periods, national literatures, and cultural contexts. Secondary readings will include exemplary works of literary criticism and theoretical writings on critical method. In addition to performing close readings of the primary texts, we will discuss theoretical problems of genre, author, closure, and ambiguity, along with the limitations of formal analysis and the text/context binary.
The governing purpose of this course is to teach students to perform in the written genre of literary close reading as it is practiced in a college essay. The writing assignments, which will include revisions and workshopping, will be treated as an integral part of our course of study.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL117 Writing Love: Myth-Making and Experience in the Literature of Amour
What does it mean to experience love? How do we write about it? What beliefs about love do we hold most dear? What stories or myths do we use to inscribe the indiscernible? This course investigates several myths, literary works, and philosophical treatises that attempt to represent, understand, explain, and immortalize the experience of love. From contemporary pop lyrics to Renaissance love poetry and Romanticism, we will look at the ways in which social, personal, and metaphysical experiences of love are illustrated and reimagined in the art of verbal language and literary representation. Beginning with 21st-century pop records like those of Adele, we will rediscover the tradition of love that has come down to us. This course is taught in translation and focused on close readings and discussions of the assigned texts. Students will be given the opportunity to write analytically and creatively in response to the assigned readings.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL120 Muslims, Jews, and Christians: Getting Along in Medieval Spain
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 often 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 well-being.
This seminar will explore the works produced by the pluralistic societies of medieval Iberia from the perspectives of art, architecture, history, archaeology, literature, and music. As we study renowned monuments such as the synagogues of Toledo, the Alhambra, and the Way of St. James, we will learn to decode elements such as dress and home decor, food and hygiene, gardening and agriculture, to expand our picture of culture and lived experience. Finally, we will ask why convivencia ultimately failed, and how the medieval Iberian experience can enlighten our own uneasy attempts at building a multicultural, multiconfessional society.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: FIST122
Prereq: None

COL123 Love, Sex, and Marriage in Renaissance Europe
This writing-intensive seminar will compare literary and artistic depictions of love, sex, and marriage during the Renaissance by authors and artists from England, Spain, France, Flanders, Germany, and Italy. We will read both male and female writers in genres ranging from poetry, the short story, and theater to the essay, the travel narrative, and the sermon. We will also examine other arts such as painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts (e.g., wedding chests). Questions we will explore include, but are not limited to, How were love and marriage related during the Renaissance? What role did sex, gender, and violence play in relationships between couples and within society? How do gender and genre affect the ways in which love, sex, and marriage are depicted? How did cultural differences influence writers’ and artists’ interpretations of love, sex, and marriage? And what about same-sex unions? Other topics will include virginity and celibacy, erotic literature, family and class structures, and divorce.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: MDST125, FIST123, FG5123
Prereq: None
COL125F Staging America: Modern American Drama (FYS)
Can modern American drama—as cultural analysis—teach us to reread how America ticks? Together we will explore this question as we read and discuss some of the most provocative classic and uncanonical plays written between the 1910s and the present. Plays by Susan Glaspell, Eugene O'Neill, Mike Gold, workers theater troupes, Clifford Odets, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Amiri Baraka, Arthur Kopit, Ntozake Shange, Luis Valdez, David Mamet, Tony Kushner, Ayad Akhtar, and others will help us think about what’s at stake in staging America and equip us as cultural analysts, critical thinkers, close readers of literature, and imaginative historians of culture and theater. This seminar will introduce first-year students to the kind of critical thinking developed in majors such as English; American Studies; African American Studies; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; College of Letters; Theater Studies; and the Social and Cultural Theory Certificate. 
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: AFAM152F, THEA172F, FGSS175F, AMST125F, ENGL175F
Prereq: None

COL128 Constantinople: From Rome to Istanbul
Constantinople was founded by a Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in 330. From there the story gets complicated. Should we account for Constantinople from a Western point of view and call it Roman? Or, should we label it by its Eastern religion and call it Christian? Or, should we see Constantinople’s true nature in a transnational Hellenic culture and call it Byzantine? Then, once we have chosen a story to explain the city’s nature, how should it end? With the pillaging fourth crusade in 1204, or the Ottoman sack in 1453, or is Constantinople yet alive in modern Istanbul? This course diverges from such narrative frameworks by accounting for Constantinople as, first and foremost, a city. Together we will explore the rich, unevenly distributed, textual and material relics of this medieval metropolis and contribute our finds to a collaborative digital database. Students will draw from this database to craft their own histories, applying both imagination and analysis into a believable and reliable story conveying the diversities and paradoxes of life in the City.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: MDST128, HIST230
Prereq: None

COL129 Writing the French Revolution
“Liberty, equality, and fraternity” was the slogan of the French Revolution and features three concepts of enduring interest. In this seminar we will explore the French Revolution and its antecedents—and what these can mean for us today. In the process we will delve into a number of ways of thinking and modes of representation: historical thinking, of course, but we will also get a sense of the origins of sociology and political science, the power of scientific thinking, and differences between literary and visual representation (especially films). This course will also serve as a writing workshop emphasizing the nuts and bolts of good writing and experimenting with such rhetorical modes as argument, personal narrative, persuasion, and fiction-writing.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST129
Prereq: None

COL130F Thinking Animals: An Introduction to Animal Studies (FYS)
The question of “the animal” has become a recent focus across the disciplines, extending debates over identity and difference to our so-called nonspeaking others. This course will examine a range of theories and representations of the animal to examine how human identity and its various gendered, classed, and racial manifestations have been conceived of through and against notions of animality, as well as how such conceptions have affected human-animal relations and practices such as pet-keeping and zoos. We will seek to understand the desire to tame or objectify animals as well as evidence of a contrasting desire that they remain guardians of inaccessible experience and knowledge. Readings may include Darwin, Poe, Kafka, Mann, Woolf, Coetzee, and Hearne.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: FGSS130F
Prereq: None

COL150 Great Books Unbound
This course will introduce students to great works of Western culture—both textual and performative—and the different ways that a professor of literature, a historian, and a philosopher might read them. The theme of the course is METAMORPHOSIS. Through repeated encounters with Apeleurs’ GOLDEN ASS, Shakespeare’s A WINTER’S TALE, Kafka’s METAMORPHOSIS, and Puccini’s MADAME BUTTERFLY, we will track the transformation of our theme through questions of translation, reception, language, method, genre, and our own choice to read, think and write through these works. Three College of Letters faculty will alternately lecture and lead small seminars, where students will learn how to transpose their own analysis of these texts into effective writing. We will celebrate the apotheosis of this course with an expedition to the MET’s performance of Madame Butterfly.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL150F Great Books Unbound: How to Live Forever (FYS)
How do classic works in literature manage to break the bounds of humanity and live forever? This multidisciplinary humanities course explores in-depth four compelling works, which each run up against the very limits of being human through their explorations of love, reason, fame, and evil itself. Interwoven weekly lectures by three professors from different disciplines will bring out complementary and/or conflicting dimensions of meaning. These dynamic interpretative tensions flow into the twice-weekly small discussion seminars and periodic writing workshops to bring students’ critical reading to the next level.
We will ground our ambitious inquiry into the immortal and the infinite in three texts representative of the College of Letters’ three core methodologies: history (the ALEXANDER ROMANCE), philosophy (Descartes’ MEDITATIONS), and literary studies (Shakespeare’s ROMEO AND JULIET). Then, with our heightened skills in critical reading, analytical interpretation, and persuasive writing, we will conclude by developing our own interdisciplinary approach to Bolto’s MEFISTOFELE (an opera based on Goethe’s FAUST). The course will travel to the Metropolitan Opera in New York to experience the opera live.
This course is not a prerequisite but is strongly recommended for students considering the College of Letters major; it can also serve as a gateway course to any of the core humanities disciplines.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None
**COL186 The Changing American Novel: From Jack Kerouac to Maggy Nelson**

This course will discuss eleven novels, exploring changes in the styles, concerns, and attitudes of fiction from World War II to the present. The first half of the course addresses the hegemony of certain forms and issues in novels written primarily by white male authors between 1945 and 1965. The second half is devoted to diverse novels that represent some of the literary, social and political forces that have led to the heterogeneity of the contemporary American novel.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL186
Prereq: None

**COL201 Writing Nonfiction**

In this creative course, students will address the elements of creative nonfiction, such as narrative, character, voice, tone, conflict, dialogue, process, and argument. The work of nonfiction writers such as James Agee, George Orwell, Joseph Mitchell, Walker Percy, Anne Lamott, Caroline Knapp, and Dave Eggers will serve as models and inspiration. The course will be taught in workshop fashion, with selected students presenting their writing in class each week.

Charles Barber is the author of two works of nonfiction and a novel in progress. He is a lecturer in psychiatry at Yale Medical School and a visiting writer at the College of Letters.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: ENGL214
Prereq: None

**COL202 Poetry and Politics: Pound, Arendt, Lowell**

By focusing on the connections among two poets and a political philosopher, this seminar will explore the problematic relationship between art and political life. Robert Lowell sought Ezra Pound as a poetic mentor; Lowell and Hannah Arendt were friends; and all three became embroiled in controversies over the relationship between morality and aesthetics after World War II. The course will ask to what extent poetry can be politically destructive and morally culpable and, conversely, consider whether the writing of poetry can be a redemptive act. Writing assignments will encourage students to focus their discussions of political and aesthetic theory through case studies and to relate ideas to poetry through close readings.

The class will read selections from Pound’s CANTOS, including the PISAN CANTOS (1948), giving careful consideration both to his poetic theory and to his attraction to fascism. Our discussion of Pound will conclude with a sustained study of the debates that erupted when the fascist Pound was awarded the 1949 Bollingen Prize for poetry. We will then focus on Arendt’s critique of fascism and totalitarianism and her belief that writing, or storytelling, can be morally and politically redemptive. Readings from Arendt will range from THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM (1950) to “Thinking and Moral Considerations” (1984; posthumously published). We will read EICHMANN IN JERUSALEM (1963) in its entirety and consider it as both a treatise in political theory and as a historical narrative. By revisiting the controversy that greeted its publication, we will again take a public debate as a case study that allows us to consider the relation of art and morality. Finally, we will discuss Lowell’s poetry as a possible example of the kind of storytelling Arendt endorses, reading LIFE STUDIES (1959) and much of NOTEBOOK (1970). At the same time, we will explore Lowell’s admiration for Pound (he was on the committee that awarded Pound the Bollingen prize) and ask to what extent his poetry adequately responds to the dilemmas posed by Pound’s example.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

**COL204 British Literature in the Enlightenment: Individualism, Consumer Culture, and the Public Sphere**

England was changing rapidly in the 17th and 18th centuries. Indeed, it is often said that this period was crucial for the emergence of individualism, consumer culture, and the public sphere—for the modern world itself. The period is sometimes described as the Age of Reason, but it was also an age of bawdy laughter, intense emotion, brazen self-promotion, serious faith, and gossip in coffeehouses and magazines. It was an age, too, of flourishing marketplaces, imperial expansion, slavery and abolition. This course will track how literary writers celebrated, condemned, participated in, or simply tried to make sense of their changing moment (and the changing understandings of literature available in it).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL206
Prereq: None

**COL214 The Modern and the Postmodern**

In this course we will examine how the idea of “the modern” develops at the end of the 18th century and how being modern (or progressive, or hip) became one of the crucial criteria for understanding and evaluating cultural change during the last 200 years. Our readings will be drawn from a variety of areas—philosophy, novels, music, painting, and photography—and we will be concerned with the relations between culture and historical change. Finally, we shall try to determine what it means to be modern today and whether it makes sense to go beyond the modern to the postmodern.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-HIST
Identical With: HIST214, CHUM214
Prereq: None

**COL216 "Multikulti Germany": Expressions of Germany’s Cultural Diversity**

That Germany is an ethnically and culturally homogenous country is a myth cultivated by the Nazis. Germany’s position in the center of Europe has made its geographical and cultural identity fluid and the make-up of its population diverse at least since the Migration of Peoples (ca. 200-800 CE). Adding to the ethnic and cultural mix were influxes of Jews during the Middle Ages and later; the incursions of armies from all over Europe during the Thirty Years’ War; the 17th-century immigration of French Huguenots to Prussia; the redrawing of borders after both world wars; marriages between black GIs and German women after World War II; and, during the labor shortage that followed World War II, the arrival of guest workers from southern and eastern Europe and Turkey, many of whom ended up staying. Refugees also came from Eastern Europe during the Soviet era and during the Bosnian War, and for some people not motivated by political or economic oppression, Germany has proved an attractive destination. In this course we will focus primarily on fiction and nonfiction works by recent immigrants or descendants of immigrants, all of whom write in German and have been translated into English. Among the topics we explore will be homesickness; interactions with the bureaucracy; use of and perspectives on language; questions of citizenship, assimilation, and integration; clashes of cultures; and encounters with xenophobia. We will also look at the particular experience of Afro-Germans.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Prereq: None
COL217 Love and Loss in Medieval and Early Modern French Literature and Culture

The interconnected themes of love and loss encompass others such as desire, passion, friendship, death, separation, and grief. This course introduces students to the uses of these themes in French literature of the medieval and early modern periods by reading a range of texts, from the courtly romance and lyric poetry, to the essay, the novella, and theater. We will examine how men and women treat these themes, and we will be especially sensitive to the ways in which women write in genres traditionally dominated by men. Topics of study will include the body, virtues and vices, marriage, sexuality, seduction, chastity, and violence. We will also place emphasis on improving French pronunciation and on developing oral presentation and written skills. Readings, papers, and discussions will be in French.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: MDS224, FREN222
Prereq: None

COL219 Modern Spain: Literature, Painting, and the Arts in Their Historical Context

In this course, we study the so-called "masterpieces" of modern and contemporary Spanish literature, painting, and film (18th century to the present). The works chosen represent the major literary and cultural movements of the past three centuries: the Enlightenment, Romanticism, realism, and naturalism, the generations of 98 and 27, the avant-garde, neorealism, and postmodernism. As masterpieces, they have achieved canonical status through either the influence they have come to exercise over successive generations or their popular reception at the time of their production. In our close analysis of these works, we will interrogate the processes and conditions of canonicity. We will emphasize the relationship between cultural production and historical context, seeking to draw analogies at all times between the short stories, novels, poems, plays, paintings, and movies under consideration and the social, political, and economic milieu from which they emerged.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: MDS223, SPAN230
Prereq: None

COL220 Modern Christian Thought

This course will provide an introduction to the field of Christian thought by exploring the relationship between conceptions of God and conceptions of selfhood, from St. Augustine through liberation, feminist, evangelical, process, and eco-theologies. How do the ways people think about God reflect, support, or interrupt the ways they think about the human subject? And what sorts of ethics, communities, and political decisions do these models underwrite?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI
Identical With: RELJ220
Prereq: None

COL223 The Picaresque Hero: Rogue (Picaro), Anti-Hero, Citizen

A new type of character, the rogue or picaro, emerges in early modern fiction, in a new genre (we now call the picaresque) built around an anti-hero. This course explores how and why the anti-hero displaced the virtuous ideal of the hero prevailing in classical and medieval literature. Through Spanish picaresque novels written between 1554 and 1647, we will trace the picaro as a character who evokes, parodies, and subverts the attributes associated with the ideal citizen. To understand how the picaresque accomplishes this, we will look at its interplay with competing, often idealizing, genres (e.g., autobiographies, lives of saints and soldiers, inquisitorial confessions, the arts of letter writing), together with political theory and natural-law theories of the period. Finally, we will look ahead to 20th-century examples of picaresque narrative such as Louis-Ferdinand Céline's JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE NIGHT or E. L. Doctorow's BILLY BATHGATE, considering what picaresque characters mean for us now.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN233
Prereq: None
to Amerindian and African influences, and Hispanic-American poets exploring bilingualism in the U.S. We will read lyric, epic, and burlesque verse on a wide variety of themes (mysticism, sex, history, reason, travel, love, politics, sensory perception, death, and poetry itself); reflect on how poetry can best be enjoyed and understood; and consider how poetry has been produced, heard, read, and used (ritual and spontaneous song; minstrel performance of epic and ballads; courtly patronage, literary academies, and manuscript circulation; private reading of printed texts and commodification; and 20th-century singer-songwriter musical settings and politics). Although no prior expertise in poetry is expected, a willingness to engage it closely (textually and historically) is essential.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: LAST232, SPAN232
Prereq: None

COL227 Life Writing: Writing About the Self and from Experience
This course will examine both the power and the complexities of writing that derives from personal experience. Topics to be addressed, in turn, are memory (and its reliability); experience (authoritative/reportorial vs. interpretive/symbolic); identity and voice of the narrator; and agency (the degree to which the narrator is in control, or not in control, of the narrative). Types of life writing that will be explored are coming-of-age narratives, illness and trauma narratives, confessional narratives, autobiographical poetry and song lyrics, and interviews/oral histories. Readings and materials include Shadd Maruna, William Styron, Mary Karr, Donna Tartt, James Joyce, and many others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: WRTC227, ENGL228
Prereq: None

COL228 Virtue and Vice in History, Literature, and Philosophy
Beginning with Aristotle and Confucius and reading our way through significant texts of Christianity, humanism, postmodernism, and contemporary cultural productions, we will explore the ethics, power, and politics intersecting in the idea of virtue.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: CHUM228, HIST140, PHIL112
Prereq: None

COL229 Heroes, Lovers, and Swindlers: Medieval and Renaissance Spanish Literature and History
This course is designed to develop students’ ability to make informed and creative sense of four fascinating, complex, and influential medieval and Renaissance Spanish texts in their multiple (literary, historical) contexts: the "national" epic EL CID (12th–13th century); the bawdy and highly theatrical prose dialogue known as LA CELESTINA (1499); the anonymous LAZARILLO (1554), the first picaresque novel; and María de Zayas's proto-feminist novella THE WAGES OF VICE (1647). Through these and selected historical readings, the course is also intended to provide students with a basic knowledge of Spanish culture (in its plurality) from the 11th through the 17th centuries, the texture of everyday life, and the larger movements of long-term historical change. We will draw on literature and history to imagine the world of chivalry and crusade in the medieval Spain of "the three religions of the book" (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam); of mercantile values, courtly love, and prostitution in the Renaissance city; of social injustice and religious hypocrisy in imperial Spain; and of the exacerbated gender and caste tensions that followed from the political crises of the 1640s. We will reflect on the interplay of literature and history in our efforts to come to grips with a past both familiar and strange; address the crossing of linguistic, artistic, ethnic, religious, caste, and gender boundaries that has long been a conspicuous feature of Spanish society; and consider what texts and lives of the past might still have to say to us today. No prior historical or literary preparation is required, only a willingness to engage the readings closely (textually and historically).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: MDST228, SPAN230
Prereq: None

COL230 Introduction to European Avant-Garde, 1880–1940
This course will introduce students to the major avant-garde art movements from the first half of the 20th century as they took root in France, Germany, Italy, Holland, and Russia. Our focus will be on painting, but we will also look at attempts to go beyond painting in an attempt to gain greater immediacy or social relevance for art. Topics that will receive special emphasis include the relationship between abstraction and figuration, the impact of primitivism and contact with non-Western arts, modernism's relationship to mass culture, war and revolution, gender and representation, art and dictatorship, and the utopian impulse to have the arts redesign society as a whole.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: GRST241, FIST241, ARHA241
Prereq: None

COL231 Orientalism: Spain and Africa
Over the past several decades, North African and Middle Eastern cultures have become conspicuously important within the Spanish cultural arena. Translations of writers from Lebanon to Morocco abound in Spanish bookstores. Spanish writers have begun addressing North African and Middle Eastern issues with greater frequency, especially in their novels. The dramatic rise in the African immigrant population in Spain during the 1980s and 1990s, meanwhile, has been matched by a rise in press coverage of issues pertaining to Africa and the Middle East. These factors constitute the point of departure for our historical overview of the treatment of Islamic cultures in modern Spain, from early 19th century to the present. Guided by Edward Said's seminal essay, ORIENTALISM, we will assess the extent to which (and the process by which) Spain passes from the Orientalized subject of European Romanticism (painting, literature, music) to an Orientalizing European power in the late 20th century. In doing so, we will seek to relate the representation of Islamic cultures in Spanish literature and painting to social, political, and economic factors, most important of which was Spain's military invasion into Morocco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will also survey changing attitudes among Spanish intellectuals with regard to the Islamic world and toward Spain’s Islamic heritage, the result, perhaps, of 20th-century modernization and, most recently, of Spain’s full integration, after Franco’s death, into Europe’s military and political structures. The tools for this study include works of literature primarily, but we will also focus on painting, historical essays, newspaper articles, and film.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: MDST228, SPAN230
Prereq: None

COL233 Tales of Transcendental Homelessness: Journey, Adventure, and the Foreigner Before the Novel
"Happy are those ages when the starry sky is the map of all possible paths. The world is wide and yet it is like a home," wrote Georg Lukács in his 1916 Theory
Our subject, then, will be the Spanish Inquisition both real and imagined. Why depictions of the Inquisition found in imaginative media (art, literature, and film) remain a potent symbol of both religious fanaticism and ecclesiastical power in popular culture (by Monty Python, among others), the Spanish Inquisition (most famously by Dostoyevsky in his Brothers Karamazov) and lampooned...


Prereq: None

COL243 Junior Colloquium
This is the second of the five multidisciplinary colloquia required of all COL majors and must be taken in the first semester of the major's junior year. The topic is the medieval period, and the course covers the literature, philosophy, and history of roughly a millennium, from 500 CE to 1475 CE.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-COL
Prereq: None

COL244 Junior Colloquium
This is the third of the five multidisciplinary colloquia required of all COL majors and must be taken in the second semester of the major's junior year. Its topics are drawn from the literature, history, and philosophy of Europe in the period 1475–1800.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL245 Senior Colloquium
This is the fourth of the five multidisciplinary colloquia required of all COL majors and must be taken in the first semester of the major's senior year. The subject matters covered include literature, history, and philosophy in the 19th century, which in this context, can extend from 1879 to 1900.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-COL
Prereq: None

COL246 Senior Colloquium
This is the fifth and final of the five multidisciplinary colloquia required of all COL majors and must be taken in the second semester of the major's senior year. It includes texts from the literature, history, and philosophy of the 20th century, extending from 1900 to 2015.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL247 The Fall of Rome and Other Stories
The fifth-century fall of Rome to barbarian invaders is an idea that slowly crystallized over time. This course will examine the birth and development of this "fall"—one of the most persistent stories in history—using the very texts in which it was first articulated. We will work with a range of authors—Suetonius, Eusebius of Caesarea, Ammianus Marcellinus, Augustine of Hippo, Jordanes, Procopius of Caesarea—to connect the fall of Rome with other attempts to explain catastrophe and change. The course will conclude by surveying the persistence of the fall of Rome as an idea, through the medieval, early modern, and modern periods, right into contemporary discourse.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL249 Narrative and Ideology
When ballads were popular songs that told stories, Andrew Fletcher (1655–1716) emphasized the importance of controlling dominant narratives:

“If a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation.” Nowadays, stories take various forms, among them cinematic, and they circulate and are consumed in vast quantities. People make stories, and the consumption of those stories, in turn, “makes” people, helping to construct individual subjectivity and collective discourse. How do narratives function as the vehicles for both overt and covert ideologies? How do stories change as they become such vehicles, and how do ideologies change when they are embedded in stories? This course pursues these questions through the analysis of the narrative structure of post-1980 American films, supplemental by reading some film theory. It combines short lectures (mainly in the first few weeks) with much discussion.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: ENGL247
Prereq: None

COL250 The Renaissance Woman: Forms & Figures of Aesthetic-Fashioning of the Early Modern World
In her epoch-defining essay, “A Room of One’s Own,” Virginia Woolf re-imagined the potential of the Renaissance Woman by positing Shakespeare’s (fictional) sister, Judith and the (non-fictional) limitations she would have faced as an early modern woman. While it is very much the case that the majority of literary texts by early modern woman to have survived were penned by women of privilege who very well wrote under the auspices of a room of their own, this course takes seriously the socio-economic, cultural, religious and aesthetic restrictions placed on early modern women, and the ways in which early modern women exercised considerable authorial agency in the aesthetic-fashioning of Renaissance tropes. Often reforming, reinventing, revising and re-imagining literary, scientific, and metaphysical figurations coined by Classical and Renaissance men, these women fostered and created forms of resistance, subversion and cultural influence from within and without their historically specific cultural norms. This course recovers women’s technical and conceptual mastery of disciplines in the work of several women from the European Continent, England and the New World. We will explore the unfolding of the Renaissance mind in Philosophy, Lyric Poetry, Music, Dramaturgy, Science Fiction, Short Frame Fiction, Novelas, Medicine, Midwifery, Patronage, Epistles and Painting all produced by women. We will seek to better understand the way in which The Renaissance Woman conditioned, defined, and authored her culture from within. Special attention will be given to mastery of tropes, forms of figures and the way in which these are redeployed for subversive effects. We will also be sensitive to the ways in which women, at times, replicated forms of chauvinism and misogyny, in order to better reflect on our own critical moment. In conjunction with early modern women, we will also consider selections of seminal feminist works of the twentieth-century by Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler and Julia Kristeva in order to give theoretical ground in contemporary discourse to these early modern women.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL251 Kafka: Literature, Law, and Power
Elias Canetti claimed that among all writers, Kafka was “the greatest expert on power.” In this course we will focus on Kafka’s narratives of power relations. We will read and discuss Kafka’s sometimes painfully precise descriptions of how power is exerted in the family and in personal relationships and how scrutiny and discipline are exercised over the body. We will also consider Kafka’s depictions of physical violence and of apparatuses and institutions of power and the ethical and political implications of these depictions. The working hypothesis of this
COL252 Writing Love: Articulations of Passion, Genres of Intimacy
What is love? How do we understand the amorous? How do we write the erotic? Is the passionate necessarily opposed to the intimate? Can the prosaic be poetic? This course investigates literary works that depict, problamatize, immortalize, and give expression to the varied and nuanced forms of erotic love in human relationships. We will examine and employ the art of verbal language in articulations of passion and genres of intimacy found in philosophical discourse, lyric verse, epistolary exchanges, prose fiction, and dramaturgical and cinematic representations. By working through a liminal space between the sensible and the intelligible, desire and devotion, ineffability and fidelity, absence and presence, mortality and immortality, we will posit and discuss the perennial question: What is love?

Students will be given the opportunity to write analytically and creatively in response to the assigned readings.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL253 Existentialism
This course is an introduction to 20th-century French existentialism. "Existentialism" is both a philosophical tradition and a term that is central to the intellectual history of Western thought. The term was explicitly adopted as a self-description by Jean-Paul Sartre and was widely disseminated both by his own literary and philosophical contributions and those of his associates—notably Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Albert Camus. Existentialism became identified with a cultural movement that flourished in Europe in the 1940s and '50s. It also resonated widely with anti-colonial thinkers across the globe. Thus, through the work of Frantz Fanon, Richard Wright, and Sartre's own intellectual engagement with colonialism and oppression, we will also explore the ways in which existentialism gradually became an intellectual and political tool for contestation against racism and European imperialism.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL256
Prereq: None

COL254 Folly & Enlightenment: Madness Before and After the Mind/Body Split
This course examines a variety of ways in which madness has been conceptualized in the history of literature, philosophy, and medicine. Through close readings of classical, early modern, and modern works we will consider forms of human disquiet which have been framed as amorous rapture, poetic furor, the wisdom of folly, visionary experience, satiric subversion, apotheosis, and enlightenment. We will reconsider Foucault's observation that madness is contingent on society by exploring the ways in which perceivably mad characters interact with the limits of their social restrictions and the boundaries of consciousness in order to reveal truths and manifest new outcomes. Special attention will be paid to relationship between insanity and intellect. What is madness? What does it reveal to us about ourselves and our worlds? How does the history of madness inform our understanding of contemporary discourse in mental health and psychic well-being? In addition to the primary texts listed below, readings will be supplemented with brief excerpts from Hippocrates, Galen, Cicero, Ficino, Huarte de San Juan, Bruno, Freud, Jung, Laing, Foucault and Deleuze.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST251
Prereq: None

COL255 The Invention of Fiction: Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron
In this course we read and discuss Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron (ca. 1353), a collection of 100 short stories traded by an "honest brigade" of 10 Florentine men and women. They tell each other these stories while sheltered in a secluded villa as the plague of 1348 rages in Florence. We study the Decameron as both a product and an interpretation of the world Boccaccio inhabited. We examine the Decameron's tales and narrative frame as a point of entry into the cultural and social environment of medieval Italy. We look at its scurrilous, amusing, and provocative innuendos as traces of erotic, religious, ethnic, and cultural questions. We investigate the sexual exuberance of many of Boccaccio's tales and the tension between "high" and "low" culture. We consider the development of mercantilism and literacy in early-modern Europe and its emerging virtues of wit and self-reliance. We review the dynamics of composition and reception in manuscript culture and the book's adaptation into different media, from illuminations to film. And by impersonating the 10 Florentines, we will reenact their pastime of telling stories and appreciate Boccaccio's remarkably modern sensibility and unsurpassed art of writing fiction. This course is conducted in Italian.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: ITAL235, MDST245
Prereq: None

This course is conducted in Italian.
Augustine to contemporary graphic memoirs. We will ask how memory works to conserve, construct, or distance past selves; how bodies delimit selves; and how selves are conceived in and through our relations with others and with our worlds (material, social, and historical).

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL258 The Word for World is Information: Ideologies of Language in Science Fiction & Film
By the middle of the 20th century, it had begun to seem possible to produce a grand theory of communication that would use language as a basis for understanding all of human thought, behavior, and culture. As competing versions of such a theory circulated through academic disciplines as disparate as anthropology, neurophysiology, and the emerging field of computer science, they also filtered out—sometimes in strangely warped or oversimplified forms—into popular culture.

This course will examine the most interesting and influential of these theories, both in their scholarly origins and in their most puzzling and promising elaborations in works of literary and filmic science fiction. We will be particularly attentive to the ways that the narrative logic of science fiction texts can gloss over certain logical and philosophical inconsistencies in these theories while revealing others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: ENGL260
Prereq: None

COL262 Tolstoy
During the 19th century when Tolstoy wrote his novels and stories, literature was viewed in Russia as the intelligentsia’s primary medium for debating its big questions (such as how to resolve the inequalities that had been institutionalized under serfdom, or how to choose between new and old values as Russia experienced modernization). Writers like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky willingly assumed the responsibility to address a broad range of political, historical, and philosophical-religious questions in their fiction, and they wrote novels with radical formulations as well as solutions to these questions. However, they also viewed literature, particularly the novel, as a medium with rich potential for innovative formal experimentation, and so they resisted the call for conventional ideological novels. Each of Tolstoy’s best works is an innovative formal experiment that creates an unprecedented, new type of novel. This course will study how Tolstoy’s writings both responded to and transcended their times by creating new novelistic forms and new truths within those forms.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE252, REES252, RUSS252
Prereq: None

COL264 Critical Theory: From Karl Marx to Angela Davis
According to the Frankfurt School philosopher Max Horkheimer’s 1937 essay “Traditional and Critical Theory,” Critical Theory aims at dislodging traditional theory’s reliance on the assumption that to theorize means to categorize and explain facts from a trans-historically fixed position. Instead, Critical Theory wants to uncover the formative socio-economic processes of exploitation, struggle, and domination that underpin both the objective appearance of reality and our subjective ability to become conscious of them. In doing so, it not only wants to critique the very foundations of society and subjectivity but also wants to ignite a utopian imagination. Although Critical Theory draws on the concepts of the Western philosophical tradition (in particular on Kant and Hegel), it views them as being tainted by the “irrational totality” of bourgeois society that structurally blocks the realization of genuine freedom, equality, and liberation from fear. Hence, Critical Theory is concerned not only with the critique of specific social ills but also with the abolition of their systemic causal conditions. For this reason, it is by design a practical and activist mode of theory, as exemplified by an insight Herbert Marcuse attributes to Angela Davis: “the philosophical idea, unless it was a lie, must be translated into reality.”

In this seminar, we will do three things: 1) Retrace the genesis of Critical Theory from Marx’s appropriation of Hegel’s dialectical method to Lukács’s theory of reification; 2) Explore the Frankfurt School’s ambition to establish Critical Theory as an encompassing, multi-disciplinary research program addressing the pathologies of capitalism from the interlocking perspectives of social and economic theory, psychoanalysis, empirical social research, aesthetics, and ethics; 3) Examine how contemporary heirs to the tradition of Critical Theory such as Angela Davis, Sianne Ngai, or Rei Terada have challenged and advanced the concerns of the earlier theory in light of our current neoliberal and authoritarian predicament.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GRT, HA-GRT
Identical With: GRST254
Prereq: None

COL265 Nabokov and Cultural Synthesis
This course will trace the development of Nabokov’s art from its origins in Russian literature by close readings of the motifs that spiral outward through his (principally English-language) novels.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE263, REES263, RUSS263
Prereq: None

COL266 History and Limits of Aesthetic Theory
This class will engage significant contributions to Aesthetic Theory in the West from antiquity to the modern period along three dimensions: theoretical, critical, and historical. From a theoretical standpoint, we will address perennial questions in aesthetics, such as what makes something a work of art in the first place, what it means for art to be “beautiful” or otherwise “successful,” how differences in media condition and contribute to artistic meaning, what genera are and how they evolve, whether and how art can be ethically or politically significant, why we care about fiction, why and how we “enjoy” tragic plays or horror films, and how artistic tradition can (and should) inform individual works. From a critical standpoint, we will consider how works of art contemporaneous with each theoretical account either reinforce or challenge its specific proposals. And from a historical standpoint, we will seek to understand how aesthetic theories both respond to the specificities of their own epoch and situate themselves relative to the artistic and aesthetic traditions of their predecessors. Readings will include texts by Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Lessing, and Hegel.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL267
Prereq: None

COL269 Modern Aesthetic Theory
As a philosophical discipline, aesthetic theory initially coalesced around a cluster of related issues concerning the nature of beauty and the norms governing
its production, appreciation, and authoritative assessment. Beginning in the
nineteenth century, however, both art and aesthetics undergo a conspicuous
yet enigmatic shift, signaled by (among other things) Hegel’s declaration that
“art, in its highest vocation, is and remains for us a thing of the past.” Rather
suddenly, classical accounts of beauty, genius, aesthetic experience, and
critical taste are beset by anxieties about the autonomy and significance of
aesthetic praxis in human life and, subsequently, by a series of challenges to the
tenability of traditional aesthetic categories—author, text, tradition, meaning and
interpretation, disinterested pleasure, originality, etc. Our aim in this course is to
track these conceptual shifts and to interrogate the rationale behind them. (This
course complements, but does not presuppose COL 266: History and Limits of
Aesthetic Theory.)
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: PHIL269
Prereq: None

COL270 Modernist City-Txts
Since the 19th century, the city has been both a privileged and a problematic
object of representation for narrative realism: privileged because urban spaces
have increasingly been seen as shaping or producing the very social relations
and individual experiences that realism wants to describe; problematic because
the city itself, as a coherent totality that might explain those relations and
experiences, is too vast, heterogeneous, and complex to be represented through
the traditional techniques of realism.

This course will approach the problems and possibilities of the city for realism
through a close reading of two large, ambitious texts that attempt to represent
the city as a totality: James Joyce’s novel ULYSSES (1922) and David Simon’s
television series THE WIRE (2002-2008). We will be particularly concerned
with two techniques, pioneered by Joyce, for representing the city: stream of
consciousness, which creates a tour of the city from the perspective of a single,
mobile flâneur; and montage, which creates a map of the city by juxtaposing
various cross-sections of social life or various institutions central to the city’s
functioning.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: ENGL272
Prereq: None

COL271 Performing Ethnicity: Gypsies and the Culture of Flamenco in Spain
In this course, we will analyze how Gypsies and flamenco are associated, in
fact and in fiction, and how and why they have emerged into the limelight of
Spanish national discourses. Although they represent discrete realities—
not all Gypsies identify with flamenco and not all flamenco artists are Gypsies—
correlations between the two have nonetheless been exploited by the media
and by artists as an often unwanted emblem of Spanishness. The tensions
surrounding this practice seem related to an undisputed fact of Spanish cultural
history: Flamenco is unique within European culture; with a population of nearly
one million, Gypsies are Spain’s dominant minority; yet recognition of the artistic
value of the former and acceptance and assimilation of the latter have been
slow to congeal within Spanish society. Our practical aim will be to analyze
these important aspects of Spanish culture in their historical context. We will
study how the connection between Gypsies and flamenco has emerged; we will
evaluate the extent to which it is valid; and we will attempt to assess what seems
to be at stake in the struggles between those who promote and those who resist
this connection as distinctive of Spanish national culture. In doing so, we seek to
foster a deeper understanding of the importance of the Roma community within
the framework of European and Spanish culture and a deeper appreciation for
flamenco as a unique form of cultural expression. On the theoretical plane, we
seek to understand how music, dance, literature, cinema, performance, and art
can give expression to ethnicity; how cultural hegemonies emerge; and what
role artists play in supporting or contesting those hegemonies. In general, this
course is designed to help students develop critical skills of cultural analysis while
increasing their proficiency in Spanish.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: SPAN257
Prereq: None

COL272 Exoticism: Imaginary Geographies in 18th- and 19th-Century French
Literature
This course will consider the fascination with the exotic—with foreign landscapes,
customs, and culture—in 18th- and 19th-century French fiction and, to a lesser
extent, poetry. Discussions will focus on the representation of foreignness and
the construction of the exotic woman, as well as on the status of the European
gaze. Major authors may include Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Chateaubriand,
Balzac, Mérimée, Loti, Flaubert, Hugo, Baudelaire, and Gautier.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN372
Prereq: None

COL273 The Agony and the Ecstasy: The German Novel and Novella
Starting with Goethe in the 18th century, German, Austrian, and Swiss authors
have made major contributions to the literary genre of the novel and the sub-
genre of the novella, typically shorter than a novel and restricted to one plot
line. German prose works often grapple with profound philosophical questions,
particularly those that bear on the meaning of life, the relation of the individual
to society and to other individuals, the character of justice, definitions of ethics
and morality, the nature and calling of the artist, and the tension between
thought and emotion. In this course we will read, in English translation, longer
or shorter works by some of the most significant and enduring authors writing in
German between the 18th and 21st centuries. Particular attention will be paid to
the portrayal of social and political issues, to narrative strategies and style, and
to thematic continuities in the cultures of the German-speaking regions. We will
also consider the challenges of translating fiction from one language and culture
to another. Several films based on works read in the course will be viewed and
analyzed. Ample opportunities will be provided for writing, in both expository
and creative veins, and receiving detailed feedback.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GELT260, GRST260
Prereq: None

COL274 Outsiders in European Literature
Modern literature is replete with protagonists who represent a position or
identity that is outside an accepted mainstream; they are different, peculiar
and/or attractive, and potentially dangerous. This course will focus on the
experience of being or being made into such an outsider, or other, and on the
moral, cultural, racial, gendered, sexual, or national norms or boundaries such an
outsider establishes for the inside. Reading both fiction and theory, we will ask
how the terms of inside and outside are culturally and historically constructed
as we also look for proposals for dealing with outsiders and their otherness.
Authors may include Kafka, Mann, Camus, Colette, Fanon, Sartre, Beauvoir,
Duras.
Offering: Host
COL275 Virtue Ethics: Traditional, Comparative, and Contemporary Approaches
This course provides an overview and evaluation of various virtue-based approaches to ethics in the Western and Eastern traditions. In the first part of the course, we will get a basic sense for the structure and distinctive features of ancient virtue-based ethical theories. In the second part of the course, we will follow the trajectory of these approaches through to their revival in the late 20th century in the contemporary virtue ethics movement.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL276
Prereq: None

COL276 Creativity and Crisis: Germany 1918-1933
This course investigates the fascinating culture of the Weimar Republic, Germany's first, heady, and ultimately unsuccessful experience with democracy between the end of the First World War and the Nazis' rise to power. We will focus particularly on Berlin, coming into its own as Germany's first true metropolis, but will also look at Munich, another hub of cultural activity and the site of Hitler's early organizing activities. Among the topics to be studied may be the increasing influence of film, radio, and the press; modernism in literature; new impulses in art; the economic and social impact of hyperinflation and the Great Depression; changes in the roles of women; assertion of previously taboo gender identities; competing political ideologies; reactions to the immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe; the emergence of proletarian mass culture; and the observations of cultural critics such as Walter Benjamin and Siegfried Kracauer on the world taking shape before their eyes. We will also read works set in Berlin but written by outsiders (Isherwood and Porter).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GELT275, GRST275
Prereq: None

COL278 European Realist Novels
The realist novel has a strangely ambivalent legacy. On the one hand, like other literary forms, it is repeatedly consigned, dismissively, to an earlier moment in literary history: surpassed by modernism, reimagined by postmodernism, and replaced by film, television, and whatever forms of new media might presently emerge. Yet it has also clearly endured—in the popular imagination as well as in the academy—as a pervasive norm, continually setting the standard against which popular narratives may be judged to be successful and (more importantly) serious. Reading these novels, then, does not just teach about an important period in literary history (though it does that, too); it gives us a better understanding of what we continue to expect from the fictional stories that claim to represent the world around us.

We will spend the first six weeks on an overview of the influential tradition of French realism, reading representative texts by Stendhal, Balzac, and Zola. In the second half of the semester, we will delve into two longer novels that have often been regarded as exemplary (even paradigmatic) works of realist fiction: Eliot's Middlemarch and Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. While the emphasis will be on the novels themselves—what they do and how they work—we will also read a small selection of secondary texts (variously critical, historical, and theoretical) on realism, narrative, and the novel as genre.
Offering: Host

COL279 Good, Evil, Human: German Fairy Tales and Their Cultural Impact
The collected folk tales of Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm have had a substantial impact on the cultural history of Germany and beyond. Deceptively simple, these little texts communicate and negotiate extraordinarily important and complicated messages about what it means to be human, to behave in acceptable ways, to have and control unwelcome desires, and to (be able to) imagine a better world. We will read selected fairy tales from the Grimm collection and other texts, investigate the historical context in which the Grimms undertook their ambitious project, learn about ways in which scholarship has framed fairy tales, and discuss adaptations of the fairy-tale tradition in films and texts of the 20th century.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: FIST278
Prereq: None

COL280 Work: Its History and Future
In this course, we will explore one of the fundamental concerns of human existence: "the creation of man through human labor," as Karl Marx once put it. Marx's interest in self-creation through work and the possibility of overcoming all forms of alienated work is arguably at the heart of what we imagine living well means today. For many of us, an idle life without work has become unthinkable. We live to work and we work to live. Yet while we have become ever more immersed in intimate forms of immaterial labor (keeping in touch with clients at all times, collaborating via digital platforms no matter where we are, tackling our jobs with ceaseless enthusiasm and creativity), waged labor has diminished and might now be thought of as a rare good. Soon the work of truck drivers will be replaced by self-driving vehicles, and the bulk of industrial production will be designated to robots. Automation and artificial intelligence will increasingly restructure intellectual labor, like that of lawyers, accountants, and data analysts, as well. What may once have been the dream of a liberated life is now motivating a feeling of dystopian dread: Fear of losing one's job, of being replaceable, is an all too common feeling. The jobs that remain are demanding but often monotonous. Moreover, deindustrialization in Western countries has created real misery in what used to be the core zones of global wealth accumulation—a development that right-wing populists in the United States and in Europe have been eagerly exploiting to advance protectionist and racist politics.

Against the social backdrop of precarious employment, stagnant wages, deindustrialization, the rapid expansion of vast unemployed and underemployed surplus populations, looming ecological disaster, and, crucially, the financialization of a structurally unstable global economy that seems to have exhausted its capacity for substantial growth in productivity, the future of work must be interrogated with renewed urgency. In addition to reading past and present theories of work, including some essential selections from Karl Marx and critical theory (e.g., Lukács, Adorno, Benjamin, Kracauer), Hannah Arendt's response to Marx in her distinction between labor and work, as well as recent academic work by feminists, affect theorists, and crisis theorists (e.g., Federici, Berlant, La Berge, Weeks, Clover), we will examine narratives and representations of work in films by Fritz Lang, Charlie Chaplin, Laurent Cantet, and Alexander Kluge, and literary texts by Brecht, Kafka, Dickens, Twain, Melville, Steinbeck, and Vonnegut. These thinkers and artists will give us a foundation for understanding the radical historical changes in the meaning of work in the past 200 years as well as its uncertain status in our immediate future.
COL284 Rethinking the Baroque

This course has been defined as the quintessential Hispanic (Spanish and Latin American) aesthetic, in literature and the visual arts. It has also been defined as an essentially conservative, orthodox, pessimistic, and world-denying aesthetic. Instead, this class will examine the aesthetic in terms of its embrace of the sensual, material world; its love of fragmentation, and its imagining of two ways: either by mechanizing them (in their motivations, their behaviors, and even their narrative desires) or by appealing ultimately to some sort of spirit, inspiration, or even ghost.

COL282 Cybernetics and Ghosts: Narrative Machines and Posthumanist Fiction

Within certain texts that have been canonized under the various rubrics of postmodernist, posthumanist, and cyber fiction, there is a yearning to either discover or banish what in the mid-20th century was quaintly referred to as the "ghost in the machine." These texts offer a model of literature and of narrative as machine; produced algorithmically (e.g., via combinatorial recursion) or through the application of some experimental constraint, conceit, or gimmick, they seem to be functioning according to a program or plan rather than relating the events of a human life. Against or within this formal framing, these novels find themselves having to account for their human characters (and readers) in one of two ways: either by mechanizing them (in their motivations, their behaviors, and even their narrative desires) or by appealing ultimately to some sort of spirit, inspiration, or even ghost.

This course will examine the ways that several of these texts attempt to make sense—simultaneously—of mechanist models of the human (particularly derived from cybernetics) and of their own seemingly inorganic—and even alienating—narrative forms.

COL283 The Rationalist Tradition in Early Modern European Philosophy

This course offers an intermediate-level survey of the Rationalist tradition in Early Modern European Philosophy. Broadly speaking, Rationalism (with a capital ‘R’) is the view that human reason can deliver insight into significant philosophical truths, without relying on sense experience. We will explore varieties of this methodological commitment in connection with several core topics — including the existence of God, the nature of the human mind (or soul), its relation to the body, and the possibility of empirical knowledge. We will read texts by René Descartes, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, Baruch Spinoza, G.W. Leibniz, and Emilie Du Châtelet.

COL286 French Cinema: An Introduction

In 1949, postwar Germany officially split into two separate countries with the formation of the German Democratic Republic. Also known as East Germany, the GDR was isolated from the Western world for four decades, but it developed its own, equally rich literary and cinematic cultures. By looking at a range of textual and visual sources, students will engage critically with ways of understanding this “other” Germany and its distinctive cultural expressions, ideology, and history, including the role of the government and the Stasi. We will also explore phenomena such as the “Ostalgie” and retro-chic that manifested themselves after the Fall of the Wall in 1989. We will read works by Christa Wolf, Wolf Biermann, and Monika Maron, among others, and watch films and TV-series produced before and after unification.

COL291 Forward, Without Forgetting: The GDR in Literature and Film

In 1949, postwar Germany officially split into two separate countries with the formation of the German Democratic Republic. Also known as East Germany, the GDR was isolated from the Western world for four decades, but it developed its own, equally rich literary and cinematic cultures. By looking at a range of textual and visual sources, students will engage critically with ways of understanding this “other” Germany and its distinctive cultural expressions, ideology, and history, including the role of the government and the Stasi. We will also explore phenomena such as the “Ostalgie” and retro-chic that manifested themselves after the Fall of the Wall in 1989. We will read works by Christa Wolf, Wolf Biermann, and Monika Maron, among others, and watch films and TV-series produced before and after unification.

COL292 Reason and Its Limits

This course offers a close study of Immanuel Kant’s magnum opus, the Critique of Pure Reason, supplemented by related writings by Kant and some secondary literature. Kant observes that the history of philosophy is rife with disagreements, even though philosophers purport to traffic in necessary truths disclosed by reason alone. This scandalous fractiousness calls into question reason’s ability to offer substantive insights into necessary truths. Kant’s “critique” aims to vindicate reason by distinguishing, in a principled manner, the sorts of things we can know with certainty from those that lie beyond the limits of human understanding. His central thesis, “transcendental idealism,” holds that “reason has insight only into what it produces after its own plan” (Bxiii). In other words, we can indeed be certain of key structural features of reality such as its spatiotemporality and causal interconnectedness—but only because those features are, in some crucial sense, mind-dependent. This class will explore in detail the arguments for these claims as well as prominent interpretations of their philosophical upshot.

COL285 The Baroque in Latin America

The baroque has been defined as the quintessential Hispanic (Spanish and Latin American) aesthetic, in literature and the visual arts. It has also been defined as an essentially conservative, orthodox, pessimistic, and world-denying aesthetic. Instead, this class will examine the aesthetic in terms of its embrace of the sensual, material world; its love of fragmentation, and its imagining of two ways: either by mechanizing them (in their motivations, their behaviors, and even their narrative desires) or by appealing ultimately to some sort of spirit, inspiration, or even ghost.

This course will examine the ways that several of these texts attempt to make sense—simultaneously—of mechanist models of the human (particularly derived from cybernetics) and of their own seemingly inorganic—and even alienating—narrative forms.
COL297 Reading Nietzsche
Friedrich Nietzsche, trained philologist and self-proclaimed “free spirit,” remains one of the most controversial figures in modern thought, a source of fascination and outrage alike. Best known as the philosopher of the “Dionysian,” the “will to power,” the “eternal return of the same,” the “transvaluation of all values,” and the “over-man,” Nietzsche also proudly considered himself the most accomplished prose stylist in the German language. In this course, we will examine two closely interrelated issues: (1) the genesis of Nietzsche’s major philosophical thoughts in the areas of epistemology, aesthetics, ethics, and the critique of religion, from his earliest to his latest writings; (2) the cultivation of a philosophical style that, in its mobilization of highly artistic modes of aphoristic reduction, metaphorization, personification, and storytelling, aspires to turn critical thinking into a life-affirming art form.

The course will combine philosophical interpretation with textual analysis. No prior knowledge of Nietzsche’s works is expected; however, a willingness to set aside significant chunks of time to dwell in Nietzsche’s texts is required. Students with reading knowledge in German are encouraged to read at least some of the assignments in the original. Guidance in doing so will be provided based on individual need.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST261
Prereq: None

COL303 Matter, Community, Environment
In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to consider human communities without also considering questions of “nature” or “environment.” Actor-network theory condemns nature/society dualisms; ecological theory argues that there is indeed no “nature” or “society”—only the anthropocene; and, drawing from the former two positions, object-oriented ontology conceives of ideas such as “community” or “society” as objects and ecological actors. In this seminar, we will consider various approaches taken in recent years to thinking about our relations to the worlds we inhabit. We will attempt to think not only outside a focus on “us” as humans in the first place but even outside a focus on sentient life or life in general. Examining theories of matter, community, and environment, we will discuss and analyze work by philosophers, evolutionary biologists, literary scholars, and sociologists, among others. We will pay special attention to how theorists and critics are blurring the boundaries between nature and society, environment and community, life and matter. In addition to class participation and a series of brief reading responses, students will be required to produce a final paper dealing with any topic related to the course.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM
Identical With: SISP303, ENGL302, CHUM305
Prereq: None

COL306 Spectacles of Violence in Early Modern French Tragedy
The French Kingdom endured decades of socio-political unrest and religious wars during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The tragedies that emerged from these bloody conflicts—many of which staged physical violence—not only reflected but also actively participated in the debates surrounding the ‘troubles civils.’ In this advanced seminar, we will study such tragedies in order to examine the uses, functions, and ethics of spectacular violence, in plays that adapt mythological stories (e.g., Medea), religious narratives (e.g. David and Goliath, Saint Cecilia), and current events (e.g., executions, assassinations, and regicides) for the stage. We will read the plays alongside and against the competing theoretical frameworks of violence found in various poetic treatises of the time period, yet we will also keep in mind the practical constraints and conditions of performance in early modern France. Finally, we will reflect on why we should read these plays today and how they inform our contemporary moment. Readings, written assignments, and discussion will be in French.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: THEA292, FREN306
Prereq: None

COL307 Negotiating French Identity: Migration and Identity in Contemporary France
With the largest minority in France being of Maghrebi origin, Islam has become the second largest religion in France today. What are the repercussions of this phenomenon for French identity? How did French society understand its identity and regard foreigners in the past? What do members of the growing Franco-Maghrebi community add to the ongoing dialogue surrounding France’s republican and secular identity? This course will analyze the recent attempts at redefining French identity through a study of literary texts, films, and media coverage of important societal debates (e.g., the Scarf Affair, French immigration laws, the Algerian war). Readings, discussions, and papers will be in French.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN305
Prereq: None

COL308 Medievals on the Move: Pilgrimage, Jihad, Crusade, and Apocalypse
Medieval people moved: They traded and sent emissaries; they invaded and migrated; they wandered, begged, and ascended the heavens; they went on crusade, jihad, and pilgrimage. This course will first analyze the most consistently preserved sources on medieval movement: accounts of pious travel "for God’s sake and not for pleasure." We will then contextualize such accounts with two other types of movement: the physical journeys of traders, diplomats, and warriors, as well as the interiorized journeys of the prophet, the mystic, and the storyteller. By encompassing this variety we will be able to pursue a larger question: Can patterns of exchange across the physical and cultural barriers of geography, language, religion, and governance reveal a more global medieval world than we usually envision?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: MDST308, HIST303
Prereq: None

COL309 Truth & the Poet: Lyric Subjectivity and Phenomenology
Who is the poet? What is subjectivity? How is the "Lyric I" located and articulated? How do lyrics reify their own claims to truth? Is there a role for the poet in society? What is the relationship between critique and creation? This course examines the poet in relation to various formulations of subjectivity in the history of phenomenology. We will explore how lyric subjectivity may speak truth without deferring to or differing from empirical and objective truth claims. We will consider whether the history of the lyric can be read as a series of observations that contribute to understandings of subjectivity, agency, and intersubjectivity before and after the theological turn in French phenomenology. Readings in lyric poetry will be paired with readings in phenomenology as a way of putting poetry and philosophy into conversation. Assignments will be both analytic and creative.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
historians have studied gender roles, work, and labor activism, yet recent currents of transnational capital and labor. While women have always worked, bordered United States, but also a political, economic, and cultural hub for capitalism since 1900. In this perspective, “U.S.” does not denote only the cross-cultural exchanges and exclusions. This seminar will introduce first- and second-year students to the history of Enlightenment, romanticism, nationalism, modernity, and postmodernity. Topics include the intellectual history in dialogue with the non-West. Topics include the role of ideas central to European intellectual history—including reason, society, and human rights—as part of a global process. In this course, we will explore intellectual history in dialogue with the non-West. Topics include the Enlightenment, romanticism, nationalism, modernity, and postmodernity. Discussions will address how these movements took shape through a series of cross-cultural exchanges and exclusions.

**COL313 Classic Spanish Plays: Love, Violence, and (Poetic) Justice on the Early Modern Stage**

From 1580 to 1680, Spanish playwrights created one of the great dramatic repertoires of world literature, as inventive, varied, and influential as the classical Greek and Elizabethan-Jacobean English traditions. This profit-driven popular entertainment of its day appealed to the learned and illiterate, to women and men, and to rich and poor alike. And the plays correspondingly mixed high and low characters, language, genres, and sources, with results regularly attacked by moralists. Vital, surprising, and ingenious, they exposed the creative tension between art and profit on a new scale, a tension that remains alive for us. We will examine five of the greatest of these plays by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderón de la Barca, and Tirso de Molina in a variety of genres and modes (history, epic, romantic comedy, tragedy, Islamic borderland, parody, siege play, philosophical and theological drama), with their deft character portraits (the original Don Juan by Tirso; Calderón’s “Spanish Hamlet” Segismundo; Lope’s spiffire diva Diana, the Countess of Belfior; and Cervantes’s border-crossing Catalina, the Ottoman sultan’s queen) and their virtuoso dialogue, inventive plots, and dazzling metrical variety. We will look at the social conditions that enabled the Spanish stage to serve as a kind of civic forum, where conflicts between freedom and authority or desire and conformity could be acted out and the fears, hopes, dangers, and pleasures generated by conquest, urbanization, trade, shifting gender roles, social mobility, religious reform, regulation of matrimony and violence, and clashing intellectual and political ideals could be aired. We pay particular attention to the shaping influence of women on the professional stage (in contrast to England) and to performance spaces and traditions. Organized around the careful reading of five key play-texts in Spanish, together with historical, critical, and theoretical readings, this course assumes no familiarity with the texts, with Spanish history, or with literary analysis. However, an interest in engaging these wonderful plays closely, imaginatively, and historically is essential. There will be opportunities to pursue performance, adaptation, and translation.

**Prereq:** None

**COL320 Modern Intellectual History in Global Perspectives**

Recently, postcolonial critics have urged historians to reconsider the emergence of ideas central to European intellectual history—including reason, society, and human rights—as part of a global process. In this course, we will explore intellectual history in dialogue with the non-West. Topics include the Enlightenment, romanticism, nationalism, modernity, and postmodernity. Discussions will address how these movements took shape through a series of cross-cultural exchanges and exclusions.

**Offering:** Crosslisting

**Grading:** A-F

**Credits:** 1.00

**Gen Ed Area:** HA-RLAN

**Identical With:** THEA231, SPAN231

**Prereq:** None

**COL323 Gender and History: Women Working, the U.S., and Global Capitalism**

Since 1900 (FGSS Gateway)

This seminar will introduce first- and second-year students to the history of gender, sexuality, and women’s paid work in the context of the U.S. and global capitalism since 1900. In this perspective, “U.S.” does not denote only the bordered United States, but also a political, economic, and cultural hub for currents of transnational capital and labor. While women have always worked, ideas about “woman’s work” shift across race, class, region, and time. Feminist historians have studied gender roles, work, and labor activism, yet recent histories of capitalism too often ignore women’s history, gender analysis, and sexualities. Readings will include histories of women in various parts of the world, where they often labored for U.S. enterprises. We will discuss influential theories in the field of gender and sexuality studies and how they apply to the writing of such history. All students interested in gender as a category of historical analysis for their scholarly work in any field, as well as prospective history and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies majors, will benefit from this course.

**Offering:** Crosslisting

**Grading:** A-F

**Credits:** 1.00

**Gen Ed Area:** SBS-HIST

**Identical With:** HIST291, FGSS269

**Prereq:** None

**COL324 Interpreting the “New World”: France and the Early Modern Americas**

The impact and long-lasting effects of the “discovery” of the “New World” on Europeans cannot be overestimated. This advanced seminar will compare and contrast styles of expedition and conquest among the European nations, though the course will focus on the French context and the various events and encounters that occurred in the early modern Americas, particularly between 1492 and 1610, a period that laid the groundwork for the subsequent colonial project. Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to the Amerindians’ points of view. In turn, students will examine the insights and blind spots in 16th-century French navigators’, cosmographers’, cartographers’, and intellectuals’ interpretations, representations, and negotiations of difference by critically engaging with concepts such as nature, culture, alterity, gender, sexuality, marriage, religion, exchange, possession, conquest, and war. Reading, writing, and class discussions will be in French.

**Offering:** Crosslisting

**Grading:** A-F

**Credits:** 1.00

**Gen Ed Area:** HA-RLAN

**Identical With:** FGSS324, FREN324

**Prereq:** None

**COL327 Cervantes**

Cervantes is known chiefly for DON QUIXOTE, often described as the first modern novel and fountainhead of one of the great modern myths of individualism. DON QUIXOTE also reimagines virtually every fashionable, popular, and disreputable literary genre of its time: chivalric, pastoral, picaresque, sentimental, adventure, and Moorish novels; the novella; verse forms; drama; and even the ways these kinds of literary entertainment were circulated, consumed, debated, celebrated, and reviled. It is a book about the life-enhancing (and endangering) power of books and reading and the interplay of fiction and history and truths and lies. Cervantes’ art remains fresh and unsettling, sparing no one and nothing, including the author and his work. Distinguished by its commitment to the serious business of humor, make-believe, and play, the novel is at once a literary tour de force and a fascinating lens through which to examine the political, social, religious, and intellectual debates of its moment. Characteristic themes include social reality as artifact or fiction, the paradoxical character of truths, the irreducible diversity of taste and perception, the call for consent in politics and love, and personal identity (including gender) as a heroic quest. In this course, we will read, discuss, and write about DON QUIXOTE, along with a sampling of critical, philosophical, literary, and artistic responses it has inspired.

**Offering:** Crosslisting

**Grading:** A-F

**Credits:** 1.00

**Gen Ed Area:** HA-RLAN

**Identical With:** MDST254, SPAN236

**Prereq:** None
COL332 European Intellectual History since the Renaissance
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought since the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST216
Prereq: None

COL332L European Intellectual History since the Renaissance- Service Learning
This class will examine some of the major texts in Western thought since the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and analysis of the texts.

This course is designed for Service Learning. Students in this course will read short selections about Aging, meet with a specific senior citizen to talk about the books we are reading for class (5 times in the semester), and write 2-page papers responding to those meetings. Otherwise, both History 216L and History 216 will have the same class requirements.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST216L
Prereq: None

COL334 The History of Spanish Cinema
This course explores the development of Spanish cinema from the early 20th century to the present. We will evaluate how social, political, and economic circumstances condition Spanish cinematography at key junctures of Spanish cultural history in terms of the production and distribution of films, cinematographic style, and themes. The course will also highlight key facets of the Spanish star system as well as the auteurism of those directors who have achieved international acclaim by reworking a national film idioms within international frames of reference.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST301, SPAN301, FILM301
Prereq: None

COL336 Theories of Translation
This course will examine a range of predominately 20th-century theoretical approaches to literary translation in the fields of philosophy, linguistics, literary criticism, and translation studies. In an effort to derive a definition of literary translation, we will focus on two questions. First: What is literal (or word-for-word) translation? How does it differ from other kinds of translation; how does it conceptualize meaning; what are its purposes; and what oppositions (e.g., literal vs. figurative) can we use to make sense of it? Second: What is the relationship between language and culture? Can translation give access to an unfamiliar culture; can literary translation affect the culture in which it is produced; or does translation simply colonize foreign texts by transforming them into something legible to a domestic culture?
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Identical With: ENGL356
Prereq: None

COL338 Utter Nonsense: Making Sense of Literature and Theory
One of the central concerns of 20th-century literary theory was to figure out how we make sense of texts and, especially, how this making sense of something comes to seem so intuitive and self-evident that we regularly talk about texts themselves as, intrinsically, making sense or not making sense.

This course examines this question by looking closely at a collection of literary texts that seem, in some obvious way, not to make sense on their own. These texts present themselves as utter nonsense, yet they also ask us to make sense of them. Starting from dada and surrealism and working our way through a variety of avant-garde formal experiments, we will look the different ways these texts have been constructed, read, interpreted, and used. At the same time, we will read a series of literary theorists who developed sophisticated psychoanalytic and semiotic accounts of the ways that we make sense of texts and of language more generally. Our goal throughout will be to see how these seemingly marginal works of nonsense literature might illuminate the ways that we make sense of all texts and utterances, even the most common everyday variety.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL339 Reading Theories
In this survey of theories that have shaped the reading of literature and the analysis of culture, emphasis is on key concepts—language, identity, subjectivity, gender, power, and knowledge—and on key figures and schools such as Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Saussure, Barthes, Gramsci, Benjamin, Althusser, Foucault, Lacan, Deleuze, Jameson, postmodernism, and U.S. feminism.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: REES340, RULE340, RUSS340, GRST231, CEAS340, CCIV393, ENGL295, FIST290
Prereq: None

COL341 Plato’s REPUBLIC
"The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato." This declaration, famously made by Alfred North Whitehead in the early 20th century, seems especially true of Plato's Republic. No other work in the Western tradition can lay claim to setting the tone so influentially for the development of philosophy as a discipline. Almost every branch of philosophical thought we are familiar with today—on matters of ethics, politics, moral psychology, epistemology, metaphysics, and aesthetics—receives a major formulation in this text. This seminar will be devoted to a close reading of each of the 10 books of The Republic alongside various perspectives that have been taken on this magisterial work in contemporary philosophy, journalism, and literature. We will focus on The Republic primarily as a work of moral psychology by investigating the topical question of the dialogue:
Why is it better to live justly rather than unjustly? For Plato, a just life is one governed by the pursuit of wisdom or learning, and this he believes will also be a psychologically healthy one. By contrast, a life governed by the indiscriminate pursuit of power—the life of a tyrant—is psychologically corrupted. These are bold claims. What is Plato's argument for them? In raising this question, we will consider the political project Plato embarks upon in the Republic in constructing a just society, as well as connected issues he raises in the dialogue concerning the nature of human motivation, the distinction between belief and knowledge, the distinction between appearance and reality, the importance of a proper education to the human good, and the role of art and beauty in furthering the common good. Alongside Plato, we will read various works of secondary literature, journalistic pieces, and works of fiction this semester, all inspired by The Republic.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
COL342 The Word for World is Information: Ideologies of Language in Science Fiction & Film
By the middle of the 20th century, it had begun to seem possible to produce a grand theory of communication that would use language as a basis for understanding all of human thought, behavior, and culture. As competing versions of such a theory circulated through academic disciplines as disparate as anthropology, neurophysiology, and the emerging field of computer science, they also filtered out—sometimes in strangely warped or oversimplified forms—into popular culture.

This course will examine the most interesting and influential of these theories, both in their scholarly origins and in their most puzzling and promising elaborations in works of literary and filmic science fiction. We will be particularly attentive to the ways that the narrative logics of science fiction texts can gloss over certain logical and philosophical inconsistencies in these theories while revealing others.

Readings will likely include scholarly works by Norbert Wiener, Benjamin Lee Whorf, Roman Jakobson, Noam Chomsky, Warren Weaver, and others alongside science fiction texts by George Orwell, Damon Knight, Samuel Delaney, Ursula K. Le Guin, Suzette Haden Elgin, Neal Stephenson, Koji Suzuki, and Ted Chiang (with special attention to television and film adaptations).

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL347 Emperor, Caliph, King: Comparing the Byzantines, Abbasids, and Carolingians
This seminar investigates a unique "age of empires" in the wider Mediterranean world—during which imperializing political revolutions inspired intense cultural production across the Byzantines in Constantinople, the Abbasids in Baghdad, and the Carolingians across Europe. Using the cultural artifacts surviving from these "renaisssances," we will investigate how political cultures accounted for their own contested identities through myths of rebirth and return, specifically of Greek, Roman, and Persian imperial traditions. The course uses a workshop environment that relies on both collaboration and independent research; students will apply skills of analysis, creative thinking, and persuasive communication to presentations and a (in-translation) source-based research project.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL348 Cybernetics and Ghosts: Narrative Machines and Posthumanist Fiction
Within certain texts that have been canonized under the various rubrics of postmodernist, posthumanist, and cyber fiction, there is a yearning to either discover or banish what in the mid-20th century was quixotically referred to as the "ghost in the machine." On the one hand, these texts offer a model of literature and of narrative as machine: produced algorithmically (e.g. via combinatorial recursion) or through the application of some experimental constraint, conceit, or gimmick, they seem to be functioning according to a program or plan rather than relating the events of a human life. Against or within this formal framing, these novels find themselves having to account for their human characters (and readers) in one of two ways: either by mechanizing them (in their motivations, their behaviors, and even their narrative desires) or by appealing ultimately to some sort of spirit, inspiration, or even ghost.

This course will examine the ways that several of these texts attempt to make sense—simultaneously—of mechanist models of the human (particularly derived from cybernetics) and of their own seemingly inorganic—and even alienating—narrative forms.

Primary texts will include novels and stories by Georges Perec, Jorge Luis Borges, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Italo Calvino, Vladimir Nabokov, John Barth, Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, Mark Danielewski.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-COL
Prereq: None

COL349 Modernism and the Total Work of Art
The term "total work of art" refers to the German concept of the Gesamtkunstwerk, which took on new urgency in the 19th century amid social upheaval and revolution. Understood as the intention to reunite the arts into one integrated work, the total work of art was tied from the beginning to the desire to recover and renew the public function of art. While there exist many approaches to totality in the modern era, this course focuses on modernist theories and practices that simultaneously critiqued existing society and posited a utopian alternative. We will begin by studying formulations of totality in response to a cultural crisis initiated by the 1789 French Revolution. From there, we turn to German idealism and to an analysis of composer Richard Wagner's ideas and compositions that made the idea of the synthesis of the arts a central focus for European modernism. Yet if Wagner's works and writings provided the dominant reference for subsequent developments from the 1880s onward, these most often consisted of a search for alternatives to his own theory and practice, particularly in the visual arts. We will examine attempts to envision totality after Wagner in Impressionist painting and German Expressionism. Ideas of totality and utopia continued to carry positive associations for modern artists until the 1930s, when they became co-opted by totalitarian governments. The course concludes by examining the perversion of modernist dreams in Nazi festivals and art exhibitions.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: FIST339, GELT239, GRST239, ARHA339
Prereq: None

COL359 Philosophical Classics I: Ancient Western Philosophy
This course provides an overview of the development of Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, from its inception in the 6th century BCE through to Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Epicureans, and the Stoics. In exploring this material, we will touch on all or nearly all of the central concerns of the Western philosophical tradition: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, aesthetics, religion, and logic. Our focus in class will be on the close analysis of primary texts. Students must be willing to engage with readings that are fascinating but at the same time dense, difficult, and perplexing. The course requires no prior experience in philosophy and should be of equal interest to students who are pursuing or intend to pursue other majors.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHIL
Identical With: CCIV217, PHIL201
Prereq: None
COL360 Philosophical Classics II: Early Modern Philosophy from Descartes Through Kant

Can we ever hope to attain certain knowledge of the external world? Can we know ourselves? How is our mind related to our body? Are our senses more reliable than our intellect? Or is it the other way round? Can we have science without a belief in God? These are some of the questions that excited the philosophical imagination of the major intellectual figures of the early modern period, an era of unparalleled collaboration between science and philosophy. In this course we will examine how the Scientific Revolution encouraged philosophers toward radical innovation in epistemology and philosophy of mind, laying the foundations for our own modern conceptions of natural law, scientific explanation, consciousness and self-consciousness, knowledge and belief. We will be reading, analyzing, and arguing with some of the most influential works in the history of Western philosophy, including Descartes’ MEDITATIONS, Locke’s ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, Berkeley’s TREATISE ON HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, Hume’s ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, and Kant’s CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL202
Prereq: None

COL370 Digital History

This course offers an introduction to the emerging field of digital history, part of the broader digital humanities (DH), the application of computing techniques and new media to humanities disciplines. DH has important implications for teaching, research, and the presentation of cultural artifacts to the scholarly and general public. Digital humanists employ a wide-ranging set of techniques, from text- and data-mining to network analysis, topic modeling, GIS, and visualizations. DH also offers opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations among humanists, computer scientists, media specialists, and others. As a result, this course seeks to bring together students with a variety of skills and backgrounds (e.g. history, writing, programming, web and graphic design, sound and video) who share an interest in historical communication and making things.

Through readings, conversations, and hands-on work with DH tools and historical resources, we will examine questions pertinent to historical scholarship and consider how they may be reconfigured by new media and new applications of computing power. How does DH allow us to ask new questions as historians, and what perils do digital techniques pose for the discipline of history? Together, we will cultivate our skills as practitioners of history in the digital age.

A central component of the course will be collaborative DH projects of our own devising. Much of the course will have the character of a digital history research lab as we take real problems and relevant sources to advance historical knowledge as well as our skills. This might involve projects in which we conceive, design, build, publicize, and launch a tool, website, or other contribution to digital history. Students should be prepared to collaborate in and out of class, to teach and learn from each other, and to cope with a dynamic and flexible syllabus and group of tasks.

This course is part of Wesleyan’s Digital and Computational Knowledge Initiative.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST211
Prereq: None

COL390 Romanticism-Realism-Modernism

In the study of German literature (and art), the terms romanticism, realism, and modernism designate a span of time extending from the “Age of Goethe” to the mid-20th century literary cultures of West Germany, East Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. In this seminar, we want to take a closer look at representative examples for each of the three categories: What kind of subject matters are prevalent in each respective period, what narrative, dramatic, and poetic devices and forms are typically employed? What distinguishes these periods from one another, how useful are these distinctions? What, finally, is the purpose of such periodizing of literature?

The purpose of this seminar is twofold: 1. It is intended to provide a historical overview of German literature by engaging with representative romanticist, realist, and modernist works of prose, drama, and lyric; 2. It is designed to critically probe the concepts of romanticism, realism, and modernism: How useful are these categories in making us understand the evolution of fiction, authorship and readership, literary subjectivity, or narrative form? What are some pitfalls of using these categories?

All readings, papers, and discussions will be in German.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST390
Prereq: GRST213

COL391 Diderot

In this class we will come to know the most progressive and often radical thinker of the French Enlightenment, Denis Diderot (1713-1784). We will begin this seminar with an examination of how this country abbot grew into the most well known atheist of his generation. We will then move onto his famous 74,000 article Encyclopédie, a book that not only dragged sacrilege and freethinking out into the open, but triggered a decades-long scandal that involved the Sorbonne, the Paris Parliament, the King, and the Pope. (During this portion of the class, students will undertake translations of select entries [from French to English] of the "dictionnaire" for possible publication.) In the second half of the semester, we will also study the writer’s freewheeling art criticism. Finally, we will read two groundbreaking novels. The first of these, "La Religieuse", is a gripping pseudo-memoir of a nun who suffers unspeakably cruel abuse after she announces that she wants to leave her convent. The second, "Jacques le Fataliste", is a freewheeling anti-novel where Diderot used fiction to take up the problem of free will. In the final portion of the class, we will also read selections from his anticolonial and antislavery writings.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FREN391
Prereq: None

COL401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL403 Department/Program Project or Essay

Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

COL404 Department/Program Project or Essay

Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
COL407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

COL408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

COL409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

COL410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

COL411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

COL465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

COL466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

COL492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT