Possible Electives in Foreign Languages 2015-2016

The English Major allows TWO*

*Additional course requirement: Two of these courses may be upper-level courses in British or American literature, creative-writing courses at any level, EN142, or foreign literature in the original language or in translation.

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**FALL 2015**

**LT271  Nature in Horace's Epodes**

*Four credit hours. L. O'Neill*

Horace is one of Rome's greatest and most influential poets, but often textbooks focus on his blandest poems for fear of offending anyone. A selection from *The Epodes*, a book of often scurrilous abuse in poetic form focusing in particular on Roman presentations of nature (real and idealized), love, and witchcraft. Part of the 2015-16 Humanities Theme: *Human/Nature. Prerequisite: Latin 131 or a 200-level or 300-level Latin course.*

**FR375  Narratives of Identities in Francophone African Literature**

*Four credit hours. Niang*

The quest for and celebration of identity are key thematic and aesthetic components in contemporary Francophone African literature and cinema. We will engage with works of fiction and film that provide a narrative of identity within the framework of African cultures such as sub-Saharan Africa or the Maghreb. Focus will be on communal and individual identities within the framework of ethnicity and/or tribalism. Students will learn how and why these writers and filmmakers narrate identity, and will engage with African identities through structured writing, oral presentations, captivating readings of texts, and film screening. *Prerequisite: A 200-level course in French.*

**IT356  Introduction to Dante's Divine Comedy (in English)**

*Four credit hours. L. Rizzo*

An introduction to Dante, his times, and his cultural milieu through a critical reading of *The Divine Comedy* and other selected works. We will investigate Dante's relationship with authority, tradition, and faith, and explore his particular understanding of love as a path to knowledge, and of literature as a way to salvation. Students will also be challenged to find Dante's lasting influence on contemporary culture in the works of modern authors, both in the Italian-speaking and English-speaking worlds. All lectures and class materials will be in English. One additional weekly hour of discussion in Italian will be open to Italian minors and all who are interested.

**GM252  Mission Impossible: Multicultural German Literature and Film (in English)**

*Four credit hours. L. Koch*

Introduction to German-speaking literature and film by writers and filmmakers of African (Ayim, Oguntoye), Japanese (Tawada), Jewish (Celan, Honigmann), Romanian (Müller, Wagner), Russian (Kaminer), and Turkish (Özdamar, Zaimoglu, Akin) backgrounds. Emphasis on contemporary literature, with background readings from the Enlightenment through the present. Examination of creative approaches to issues of migration, exile, and globalization, with focus on language politics, identity formation, gender, history and memory, and the multicultural city. Counts toward the German major or minor. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English.
GM297 Sex, Madness, and Transgression

Four credit hours. Kent

A selection of texts from the age of Goethe through the present, each prominently featuring the representation of acts of transgression: social, mental, or sexual. One of our guiding questions will therefore be how and for what purpose literature deals with cultural, political, and sexual norms and deviations. Texts include Büchner's Woyzeck, Schnitzler's Reigen, Dürrenmatt's Das Versprechen, Böll's Katharina Blum, and Jelinek's Die Klavierspielerin, as well as a number of theoretical sources. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: German 128 or equivalent.

GM368 Sex, Madness, and Transgression

Four credit hours. L. Kent

A selection of texts from the Age of Goethe through the present, each prominently featuring the representation of acts of transgression: social, mental, or sexual. One of our guiding questions will therefore be how and for what purpose literature deals with cultural, political, and sexual norms and deviations. Texts include Büchner's Woyzeck, Schnitzler's Reigen, Dürrenmatt's Das Versprechen, Böll's Katharina Blum, and Jelinek's Die Klavierspielerin, as well as a number of theoretical sources. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: A 200-level German course.

RU237 Gamblers, Madmen, and Murderers (in English)

Four credit hours. L. de Sherbinin

Selected stories and novels by world-renowned 19th-century Russian writers (Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Leskov, and Chekhov) read with reference to critical theory on narrative, gender construction, authority and subversion, and madness. What is the relationship between protagonists and the Russian state? Emphasizes skills in symbolic reading and the development of cogent arguments in speaking and writing, including work with drafts of papers. First-year students are welcome. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required.

RU325 Conversation and Composition (Russian Fairytales)

Four credit hours. L.

Topics change each year. Fall 2015: Russian Fairytales. Introduces a range of fairytales, and their aesthetic and social value. Multidisciplinary approach to interpretation incorporates internet materials, YouTube clips, and films to supplement the readings. Focus on the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, including grammar review. Conducted in Russian. Prerequisite: Russian 128 or equivalent.

SP276 U.S. Latina/Chicana Women Writers

Four credit hours. L. Sasaki

An examination of a selection of novels, short stories, poetry, theater, and nonfiction by U.S. Latina and Chicana women writers. Interdisciplinary in approach, focused on the relationship between the texts read and several important contemporary issues. Topics include feminism, the social and cultural construction of race and ethnicity, immigration, cultural nationalism, and identity formation. Readings and class are in English. Prerequisite: Spanish 135.

SP297 Transatlantic Identities in Early Modern Textual/Visual Culture

Four credit hours. L. I. Garcia-Pinar

An overview of transatlantic Spanish literature of the Early Modern period. Explores representations of various encounters between disparate cultures that were brought together by a burgeoning globalization. Materials will include texts, maps, codices, painting, and architectural examples. Close readings will question how each culture negotiates the encounter with the other, examining hybridity, liminal identities, and cultural mediation, from peninsular Spain to Peru, through Mexico and the Philippines. Prerequisite: Spanish 135.

SP341 Cities, Bodies, and Nations in Caribbean Literature

Four credit hours. L. Hey-Colon

Examines the close but contested relationship between bodies, cities, and nations in contemporary Caribbean literature. Special attention will be paid to key moments in the history of the three Spanish-speaking islands: the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic, the Cuban Revolution of 1959, and Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico. In each instance, the role of migration will be explored, within the Caribbean, to the United States, and beyond. This will facilitate a discussion on transnationalism, a development that is integral to the current understanding of the relationship between bodies, cities, and nations. Prerequisite: 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.
EA252  Hell on Earth? Chinese Writers on Modern Chinese Society  
**Three credit hours.** L. I. Besio
An examination of how Chinese writers used literature and film to address the political and social crises their country faced during the 20th century. Through close readings of literary and cinematic works, students will reflect critically on the experiences of the Chinese people as they struggled to modernize and reform society. Students will reflect on what these experiences might teach us about our own society as well as contemporary China, and they will develop their ability to express insights both orally and in writing.

EA332  Masterpieces: Modern Japanese Novels  
**Three credit hours.** L. Prindle
An appreciation and examination of masterpiece novels and short stories written by 10 illustrious Japanese writers, including two Nobel Prize laureates. Cultivation of the students' sensitivities to the feelings and values questioned by Japanese novelists. Examination of the novels as works of literature, aided by published scholarship in the fields of literary philosophical, psychoanalytic, historical, and socio-anthropological studies in Japan and the West. Each student will pry out covert meanings, verbally express those findings to an audience, and write a high-quality research paper.

IT153  Modern and Contemporary Italian Fiction in Translation in Verona  
**Three credit hours.** L. Brancaccio
Held in Verona, Italy, a close study of six authors whose works span the 20th century, including Silvia Bonucci's *Voices from a Time*, Cesare Pavese's *The Moon and the Bonfires*, Leonardo Sciascia's *To Each His Own*, and Giuseppe Lampedusa's *The Leopard*. Field trips to Venice and Italian cultural centers around Verona. Written work required: three analytical papers. Cost: $3,300.

SPRING 2016

CL236  Roman Legends and Literature  
**Three or four credit hours.** L. O'Neill
Through reading the works of selected Roman authors in translation, an examination of major concepts in mythology: cosmogony, the hero, the interplay of legend and history, etc. Analyze the great stories of classical myth in Roman epic, tragedy, comedy, elegy and lyric. Open to first-year students.

EA251  Gender Politics in Chinese Drama and Film  
**Four credit hours.** L. Besio
A historical survey of Chinese drama and film from the 13th century to the present with a focus on representations of gender and sexuality. Paired readings of major works from various genres that make up the Chinese dramatic tradition with viewing of modern and contemporary films are informed by reading secondary scholarship in order to place these works and their portrayals of gender and sexuality in their historical and cultural contexts. Students will hone analytical skills and improve their ability to communicate insights both orally and in writing.

FR252  Provocative Texts: Engaging the World  
**Four credit hours.** L. Paliyenko
Centering on major themes in culture, an examination of the ways that different kinds of texts endeavor to set into play important issues and conflicting values. Significant writing and analysis of the means by which written and visual texts--including poetry, works of art, theater, short stories, novels, and film--"speak." Development of critical vocabulary and effective analytical writing emphasized. **Prerequisite:** French 128 or 131.

IT255  Modern Classics, Italian Style  
**Four credit hours.** L. Ferrando
An overview of some of the most relevant and interesting texts (visual, cinematic, literary, and musical) of the 20th century, while strengthening the linguistic skills acquired so far. We will begin with Futurismo, the first of the historical avant-gardes, an artistic movement that originated in Italy and set out to change everything: music, theater, literature,
painting, sculpture, and food. Every week students will engage a different text, from pop music to cinema and literature, learning how to appreciate its history and to enjoy its beauty. *Prerequisite:* Italian 128.

**RU346 Russian Poetry**  
*One or two credit hours.* de Sherbinin  
Weekly meetings focus on poems by one of the major 20th-century Russian poets, including Blok, Esenin, Akhmatova, Tsvetaeva, Pasternak, Mandelshtam, and Brodsky. Readings in Russian; discussion in English. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* Russian 127.

**RU428 The Russian Novel**  
*Four credit hours.* L. de Sherbinin  

**SP264 Introduction to U.S. Latino/a Literature**  
*Four credit hours.* L. U. Hey-Colon  
Seeks to cultivate an inclusive and broad understanding of U.S. Latino/a literature and its evolution, from the 19th through the 21st century. Special attention will be paid to the inherent diversity within the U.S. Latino/a world, which raises questions about class, race, ethnicity, gender, and language, among other topics. Students will gain not only an overall grasp of what one would consider the tradition of U.S. Latino/a literature, but also an appreciation for its relationship to U.S. literature at large, as well as Latin American and Caribbean literature. Conducted in English but knowledge of Spanish is essential. *Prerequisite:* Spanish 135.

**SP351 Ideology and Ethics in Spanish Golden Age Literature**  
*Four credit hours.* L. Sasaki  
An examination of specific literary works as responses to Spain's changing political climate during the 16th and 17th centuries. How the literary work reinforces or questions, creates or undermines, an official discourse that, in both Reformation and Counter-Reformation Spain, seeks to define national identity in ethical and ideological terms. *Prerequisite:* A 200-level literature course.

**SP493 Seminar: Sexual Dissidence in Revolutionary Cuba**  
*Four credit hours.* L. Olivares  
A study of the textual production of same-sex sexual subjectivities in post-1959 Cuba in the context of the government's official attitude toward homosexuality, which has developed from the oppressive policies of the 1960s and 1970s to the less intolerant views of the 1990s and beyond. While focused on same-sex sexualities, provides a framework for discussing literary, cultural, and political dimensions of sex, gender, sexuality, desire, identity, and community. Materials include texts by writers such as Alonso Yodú, Arenas, Bobes, de Jesús, Lima, Padura Fuentes, Portela, Pérez, Urrías, and Paz; documentaries; and feature films. *Prerequisite:* Senior standing and a 300-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.