**Possible Electives in Foreign Languages 2013-2014**

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 2013 Course details**

**CL240 The Tragic Hero: The Drama of Sophocles**
*Three credit hours.* L. I. H. Roisman

Aristotle considered Sophocles the most sublime of the great Greek tragedians. The Sophoclean heroes are self-destructive by nature, beset by doubts, constrained by fate, and hobbled by an ambiguous code of honor. Their motives reveal human fragility behind the heroic facade. Among other tragedies, readings include *Oedipus the King, Antigone, Ajax,* and *Electra.*

**CL356 Alexander the Great**
*Four credit hours.* H. J. Roisman

A seminar that aims to familiarize the student with major aspects of Alexander the Great's career and its impact on his contemporaries as well as future generations. Focus on the ancient sources' portrayal of Alexander; relations with his father, Philip II, and other members of the royal house; his dealing with Greek states; his military conquests; his interaction with the Persians, the Macedonian masses and elite; his divine aspirations, and other related topics. Students are expected to develop their analytical and interpretative skills through oral presentation and argumentation and by writing an in-depth research paper.

**LT251 Ovid and the Censored Voice**
*Four credit hours.* L. O'Neill

Ovid is perhaps the most famous victim of censorship in classical antiquity, but even banishment could not silence him. We will read selections from the *Metamorphoses,* *Tristia,* and *Ars Amatoria* that: explicitly address the suppression of the poet's speech, figuratively present the poet's response to censorship, or possibly constitute the reason for his exile. Through reading Latin texts and secondary literature, and performing original research, you will develop familiarity with the genius of Ovid, and enhance your abilities in: language; literary, historical, and cultural analysis; oral and written communication. *Prerequisite:* Latin 131, or appropriate score on the College Board Latin SAT Subject Test, AP Latin exam, or a higher level Latin course.

**EA231 The Chinese Novel: Vignettes of Life in Imperial China**
*Four credit hours.* L. Besio

A critical examination of the development of classical Chinese literature of various genres such as poetry, popular songs, philosophical discourse, historical narrative, prose, fiction, tales of the supernatural and the fantastic, romance, and drama. All readings are in English translation.

**FR493A Satire, Sedition, and Censorship in Early Modern France**
*Four credit hours.* H. Dionne
Satire and caricature use words and images to unmask and reveal sensitive problems in society. This class will focus on mockery and censorship in the literature and prints of early modern France. We will investigate how words and images alike manifest implicit and explicit responses to the threat of censorship. As a central feature of the course, students will conduct a semester-long research project creating a website that either draws on banned books and plays from Rabelais, Moliere, La Fontaine, and Voltaire, or analyzes caricatural prints of the period. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major and permission of the instructor.

**FR4938 Francophone African Voices**
*Four credit hours.* Niang
Focused on the work of contemporary women’s writers, this seminar engages with the female and subaltern experience of space and/or immigration as a medium for intercultural encounters between the West and the postcolony in the 20th and 21st centuries. The female perspective heralds a new shift in the post-colonial representation of border-crossing, cosmopolitanism and sociocultural violence, which we will also deal with in relation to religious intolerance, prejudice, modernization, and patriarchy. Our engagement with these issues will be based on a reading of fictional, historical and theoretical works that will help frame the discussions. Films and documentaries will be used to supplement the fictional texts. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major and permission of the instructor.

**IT372 Boccaccio-Petrarch: Birth of Modernity**
*Four credit hours.* L. Kriesel
Boccaccio and Petrarch lived at a revolutionary moment in Italian history, at the dawn of modernity (e.g., vast cultural explosion, increasing globalization and democracy, crisis of political-religious authority). We will examine how these two colleagues responded to and helped create a new world that often resembles our own, as well as how they considered the major debates of the day: the relationship between secular and religious, past and present, elite and popular, and the self and God. Texts to be studied include the Decameron, Canzoniere, Corbaccio, Secretum, and letters. In Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 131 or equivalent.

**GM237 The German Fairy Tale in Popular Culture (in English)**
*Four credit hours.* L. Koch
Fairy tales permeate our culture on every level. Examines the role of the fairy tale (folktales, romantic variations, and Disney versions alike) in the construction of culture along with their adaptations in the media, comics, literature, art, and film. In analyzing the historical and social development of fairy tales as a genre, students are introduced to methods of literary analysis and cultural criticism. Humanities Lab requires students’ work with fourth grade students at Mount Merici Academy. Counts toward the German major. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English.

**GM297 Poetry is Not Dead!**
*Four credit hours.* Shahan
The first course beyond the language sequence, examines the unique aesthetic, political, and philosophical critique of prose literature’s diminutive partner in crime: poetry. Attending to canonical and non-canonical texts from German Classicism to tomorrow’s verses, serves as an introduction to German literary and cultural studies through composition, conversation, and research. Emphasis on analysis of aesthetic and intellectual accomplishments representative of major periods in German, Austrian, and Swiss history. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: German 128.

**GM397 Poetry is Revolting**
*Four credit hours.* Shahan
As an introduction to representative authors and cultural texts from the German Classicism to the 21st century, we will look at the unique critique of verse and its aesthetic and political disassociation, and its revolt from other modes of literary dissidence. Through a focus on close reading skills in parallel with an examination of socio-historical developments, we will hone the ability to read verse alongside secondary and theoretical writings. Assignments include short critical essays, student presentations, and a semester research paper. Conducted in German. Prerequisite: A 200-level German course.

**RU425 20th-Century Short Works: The Search for Russia**
*Four credit hours.* L. de Sherbinin
Explores the quest on the part of the Russian intelligentsia to discover and define what is meant by Russian culture. Reading and analysis of literary and historical texts, artistic works, and musical compositions. Grammar review and
continued practice in oral and written expression. Internet, film, and audio materials supplement the readings. Conducted in Russian. Prerequisite: Russian 325.

**SP338 The Diasporic Imagination: Cubans Beyond Cuba**  
*Four credit hours. L. Olivares*
An examination of the cultural production of Cubans living in the diaspora after the 1959 revolution. Representative literary works include Reinaldo Arenas, Richard Blanco, Jennine Capó Crucet, Lourdes Casal, Ana Menéndez, Achy Obejas, Gustavo Pérez Firmat, Sonia Rivera Valdés, Guillermo Rosales, and Zoé Valdés; and feature films, documentaries, TV shows, and songs. Topics will include the traumas of migration, the politics of exile, the workings of memory and nostalgia, the fantasies of return, the hybridization of culture, and the class, generational, gender, linguistic, political, racial, and sexual diversity of Cubans beyond Cuba. Previously offered as Spanish 397B. Prerequisite: A 200-level literature course.

**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.

**RE255 The Catholic Novel**  
*Four credit hours. L. Campbell*
An examination of the Catholic novel as an act of the Catholic imagination, a personal narrative, an exploration of the meaning of Catholic assimilation into non-Catholic cultures, and a plea for change in the church or society. Provides students with an opportunity to explore Catholic theology and spirituality in depth, both in writing and in class discussions. Prepares students to reach their own conclusions about Catholics and their church.

**RE382 Abraham in the Abrahamic Religions**  
*Four credit hours. L. Freidenreich*
"Tales of ancestors are signposts for their descendants." For no figure is this Rabbinic aphorism more true than Abraham, revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. A critical examination of the evolution of tales about Abraham within these three traditions from biblical times to the present. What can we learn from these changing stories about the people who tell them? What does it mean to call a religion Abrahamic?

**JANUARY 2014**

**IT153 Modern and Contemporary Italian Fiction in Translation in Verona**  
*Three credit hours. L. Brancaccio*
A close study of five authors whose work spans the 20th century, including Silvia Bonucci's *Voices from a Time*, Luigi Pirandello's *The Late Mattia Pascal*, Alberto Moravia's *The Conformist*, Giorgio Bassani's *The Garden of the Finzi Contini*, and Andrea Camilleri's *The Terra Cotta Dog*. Three guided lecture tours of Verona, with related readings, include Roman sites such as the Arena and recent excavations. Also includes field trips to nearby Italian cultural centers. Written work required: three essays of literary analysis. Cost: $3,300.

**SPRING 2014**

**GK356 Homer, *Iliad* 1: Hero's Rage**  
*Four credit hours. L. H. Roisman*
Achilles's quarrel with Agamemnon followed by his decision not to fight caused the Greeks and their allies many casualties and led to the deaths of Patroclus and Hector. The episode described in *Iliad* 1 questions the values of authority, hierarchy, bravery, gratitude, loyalty, and arrogance, as well as the attitude of the Homeric Greeks toward their wives and concubines. The description of events allows us to analyze the emotions of anger, restraint, as well as forgiveness. Learning goals include further development of Greek reading and comprehension skills, familiarity with the Homeric epic,
enhancement of critical and analytical faculties, improvement of oral and argumentational structuring skills, refinement of writing skills. Prerequisite: Greek 131.

FR398A Love, Sex, Metamorphosis
Four credit hours. Brunetaux
From troubadours in the Middle Ages to today's popular hip-hop artists, the joys and pains of love and sex have often been sung. Through the lens of gender studies and psychoanalysis, we will explore these driving forces in literary, filmic and popular culture productions of 20th- and 21st-century France. Our investigation of the transformative power of love and sex will focus on both their representations of and their effects on gender identity and roles in contemporary French society. Discussions and debates will be informed by theoretical readings and supplementary material through which students will develop their critical and analytical skills. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.

IT2XXA Renaissance Heroes: Knights, Giants, and Gypsies (in English)
Four credit hours. Rizzo
Beginning with the Chanson de Roland, late medieval and Renaissance epic poetry has told the stories of mighty knights, their loves, their deeds, and their arms. An introduction to this remarkable corpus of literature, tracing its evolution across different centuries and different languages, with a particular focus on its comic components. Reading assignments will include passages from Boiardo, Ariosto, Pulci, Folengo, Rabelais, and Cervantes. Taught in English.

RU426 The 19th-Century Russian Novel
Four credit hours. L. de Sherbinin
A seminar that analyzes one major Russian novel of the 19th century, such as Tolstoy's Anna Karenina. Conducted entirely in Russian. Prerequisite: Russian 425 or 427.

RE219 Texts of Terror: Violence and the "Religions of The Book"
Four credit hours. Mandolfo
From the practice of human and animal sacrifice in the Hebrew Bible to the "sacrifice" of Jesus in the Christian Scriptures to the horror of 9/11, an examination of the intersection of violence and religion as portrayed primarily in the texts and traditions of the three Abrahamic religions--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Sacred texts, works of literature, and current events that illustrate and explore the theme of sacred violence will be the focus.

RE312 South Asian Women at the Crossroads: Tradition and Modernity
Four credit hours. L, I. Singh
Study of South Asian women as they contest issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, globalization. Includes novelists, poets, philosophers, translators, artists, filmmakers, and comedians. How do modernity and tradition intersect in their texts? How do literary ideals, religious traditions, societal issues overlap? How do literary creations convey the harsh reality of honor killings, dowry deaths, female feticides, widowhood, arranged marriages, purdah? How do they express their dislocation and hybridity? What is the role of language in identity formation? Of gender-inclusive translations of scripture? Of unique tropes and metaphors from South Asia for our own thinking and being in the West?

SP265 The Short Novel in Spanish America
Four credit hours. L. Olivares
Close readings of contemporary Spanish-American short novels by representative authors. Explores representations of gender, history, human rights, politics, race, and sexualities within the context of the social and political realities of Spanish America in the 20th and 21st centuries. Also considers critical literary concepts such as narrative perspective, parody, intertextuality, and self-consciousness. Previously offered as Spanish 298A. Prerequisite: Spanish 135.

SP493 Seminar: The Latina Body
Four credit hours. L, U. Garcia
Theories, narratives, and images of Latinidad will be explored. We will analyze how the multiple representations of Latinas in contemporary popular culture and literary texts influence definitions of race, identity, femininity, gender roles, beauty, and cultural authenticity in a dialogue among art, popular culture, and novels. Prerequisite: Senior standing and a 300-level Spanish literature course.