**Possible Electives in Foreign Languages 2021-2022**

The English **Major** allows TWO*
The English **Minor** allows ONE*

*Elective courses may be English courses in British or American literature or creative-writing courses at any level, EN142, or foreign literature in the original language or in translation. This is a list of foreign literature courses that would count as electives.

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**FALL**

**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.  *Prerequisite:* W1 course.

**EA297**  Words from the Floating World: Literature of Early Modern Japan  *Four credit hours.*  L. Nuffer  
Japan's early modern era (1603-1868) witnessed a literary revolution driven by the rise of the "floating world" -- the term used by the emerging urban middle class to describe their pleasure-seeking lifestyle. The literature of the floating world encompassed a wide variety of themes, ranging from romance to revenge, supernatural horror to slapstick humor. This course offers an introduction to significant texts of the period, including popular novels, kabuki plays, and haiku poetry. Students will acquire cultural and historical knowledge of early modern Japan while developing the literary-critical skills necessary for effective textual analysis.  *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course.

**FR376**  Shadows of the Past: Remembering Vichy France and the Shoah  *Four credit hours.*  L. Brunetaux  
How to represent the Holocaust through aesthetic forms without trivializing its horrors? How to translate into words the excruciating void, silence, and pain felt after the return from the camps? How has France grappled with its responsibility in the roundups and deportations of Jews during WWII and memorialized this shameful past? This course will explore how French writers and filmmakers have found creative ways to work through past traumas and convey the unthinkable through words and images. Emphasis on creative and critical thinking, literary and film analysis.  *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course.
FR397  Breaking Free: Coming-of-Age Literature in the Francophone World  Four credit hours.  L. Falantin
Summer 1954: A scandal of international magnitude arises in France. The 18-year-old novelist Françoise Sagan is censored by the Vatican and banned in South Africa, Poland and Spain under penalty of fine and imprisonment for writing a novel deemed morally unacceptable. In 1957, the young Assia Djebar suffers the same fate in Algeria, and this phenomenon spreads to Lebanon, Syria, Haiti, Vietnam and Iran where young women turn to writing to express their need for sexual liberation and emancipation from patriarchy. This course explores this revolutionary literature that challenged conservative societies, while engaging students in discussions on feminism, literary production, civic rights, the concept of freedom, and equality, among others. A close study of pop culture (songs, fashion and lifestyle magazines) will complement the analysis of these coming-of-age stories. This course will include various theoretical and sociological essays, historical films and documentaries to help situate the context in which these texts were produced. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course.

IT141  Introduction to Italian Literary Studies: Poets, Lovers, Revolutionaries  Four credit hours.  L. Rizzo
In this discussion-intensive course, we will explore the most enduring topics of Italian culture: the nature of love, the role of the artist in society, and the experience of time and death. Students will learn about different artistic genres (lyric poetry, short story, novel, film, contemporary song) and hone analytic skills and writing (rhetorical figures, form-content, stylistics). Students will become familiar with key periods of Italian culture and famous authors (Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Leopardi, Montale, Moravia, Maraini, Deledda, Calvino). In Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 128 or equivalent.

RU237  Spectacle of Modernity: Russian Fiction before Cinema (in English)  Four credit hours.  L.
Russian literature is a viewing machine, shaping how readers perceive the modern world. We read Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the Symbolists, alongside critical discussions of visual culture and modernity. Focused on the Europeanized imperial capital St. Petersburg, our readings from the 1700s to 1917 explore how Russian writers reacted to the new technologies of the railroad, photography, and the cinematograph. Students learn to close read literary texts, analyze historical contexts, and critique visual materials. No knowledge of Russian required. First-years and non-majors encouraged.

SP135B  Introduction to Critical Analysis: Indigenous Latin America  Four credit hours.  L. Miller
Latin America is home to more than 45 million Indigenous peoples who, given historical legacies of colonialism, have had little voice in regional and national discourses despite their numbers. Though Indigenous peoples and their cultures have long attracted the attention of non-Indigenous authors and artists, the canon features very few (if any) Indigenous voices. This course studies Latin American and LatinX Indigeneities vis-à-vis cultural, literary, and film studies. Students will learn how to examine cultural products through close reading, thematic analysis, and strategies of interpretation, developing skills in writing critical essays and learning the basics of scholarly research. Prerequisite: Spanish 128 or 132.

SP397  Ancient Selfies: Self and Mirror-Text in Pre-Modern Spain  Four credit hours.  L. Mercado
Contemporary culture is flooded with visual self-representations: on social media, we build our own identities and consume those of others. But how did people represent themselves before technology and the selfie existed? This course explores how writers in early modern Spain employed the mirror-text, a selfie avant la lettre, to explore, interrogate, and portray both self and other. Students will gain knowledge of the sociohistorical context of the rise and fall of the Spanish Empire, acquire textual analysis skills with the aid of visual materials, and practice necessary skills to conduct scholarly research. Prerequisite: A 200-level Spanish literature, culture, or film course.

Janplan

SPRING

FR252 Provocative Texts: A Critical Toolbox  Four credit hours. L, I. Paliyenko
How does one approach print and/or visual culture critically? Students engage with a range of "texts," such as poetry, works of art, theater, short stories, novels, and/or film, to acquire the tools and methods of critical interpretation and analysis. Significant writing accompanies close reading of what a particular "text" does and thus how it "speaks" or conveys meaning. Students apply genre-specific vocabulary and take interdisciplinary and analytical approaches to response papers, interpretive essays, and/or multifaceted digital/video projects. Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D.

IT398 Practical Introduction to Literary Translation  Four credit hours. L. Rizzo
A hands-on introduction to the subtle and most rewarding craft of literary translation. This Humanities Lab is open to students interested in translating from Italian, Latin, Spanish, and French into English. Students will choose the vast majority of texts they will work on. The course is open to all students, but foreign language majors and minors are particularly encouraged to enroll. We will begin with a few key theoretical essays to help us focus on the salient differences that set literature apart from other kinds of texts. Then we will dedicate the majority of the semester to hone our translating skills. Humanities lab course. Prerequisite: Completion of the language requirement.

GM236 ConTexts in German Culture  Four credit hours. Ellis
Introduction to critical analysis of select genres from German, Austrian, and Swiss cultures. Topics vary but through deepening of close reading skills of written, performed, and visual texts, this course examines socio-historical moments in their relationship to key notions and genres, including women writers, identity and crisis, comedy, fairy tales, and the canon. Focus continues on composition and conversation with development of critical, written, and interpretive analysis, and student presentations. Prerequisite: German 128 or equivalent.

RU326 Conversation and Composition: Personal ID in 20th-Century Literature  Four credit hours. L. Monastireva-Ansdell
Reading and analysis of literary and historical texts. Topics change each year. Spring 2021: The Search for Personal Identity in 20th-Century Russian Literature. Grammar review and continued practice in oral and written expression. Conducted in Russian. Prerequisite: Russian 325.
SP498  Sex, Drugs, and Magic in Mexico and the Caribbean  Four credit hours. Almeyda-Cohen
Explores narratives of desire, the supernatural, and illicit substances that emerge from Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico border, and the Caribbean. Looking at relevant cultural productions that challenge readings of sex, drugs, and occult practices as threats to progress and modernity, we address the historical and political systems that have dictated perceptions of the social dangers within Latin America. By studying narratives, essays, performances, and cinema while continually engaging issues of gender, sexuality, race, and religion, we will examine the intersectionality of these power differentials within Latin America.

EA252  Hell on Earth? Chinese Writers on Modern Chinese Society  Four 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.