

Possible Electives in Foreign Languages 2022-2023

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.

Fall 2022

EA253
FR258
GM297
RU237

JanPlan 2023

Spring 2023

EA120
FR238
FR252
FR361
IT246
GM236
GM493
RU231
RU428
SP135B

FALL

EA253 Three Kingdoms in Chinese Literature *Four credit hours.* L. Besio
China's Three Kingdoms Period (220-280 BCE) inspired thrilling stories that were told and retold in the following centuries, in China and throughout Asia. By tracing the migration of the Three Kingdoms story cycle over time and space, students will acquire an understanding of the continuing legacy of traditional Chinese culture up until the present, and will become familiar with the defining characteristics and formal requirements of the major genres within Chinese literature. Course goals include the development of critical thinking and research skills, as well as the ability to communicate insights effectively, orally and in writing. *Prerequisite:* Any W1 course.

FR258 Provocative Texts: Fake News, Secrets, and Controversies

Four credit hours. L. I. Falantin

In this course, we will approach Francophone culture differently, by considering some of the most famous secrets, mysteries or "fake news" in French History, from the Renaissance era to the present. We will ask, for instance, who really was Nostradamus? Who poisoned the court at Versailles in the 17th Century? Was Marie-Antoinette responsible for the French Revolution? Is Bonaparte the creator of the FBI? Using a variety of media (short stories, fairy tales, plays, movies, documentaries, and newspaper articles), we will explore critically how those questions came to exist and circulate often based on economic, judicial or political decisions. The course will include discussions of cross-cultural differences or similarities between the United States and French speaking countries on some of these questions. *Prerequisite:* French 128, 131, or 240D.

GM297 Animals, Hybrids, and Machines: Franz Kafka and the Non-Human

Four credit hours. L. Ellis

An exploration of ambivalent forms of beings that include but are not limited to a singing mouse, a distressed mole, and a metallic automaton. Instead of a singular focus on the human, we will read texts that do not center the normative human as central to an understanding of the material. In this course, the human is not entirely abandoned but just moved to the periphery so that we can associate with the other identities that shape our world. We examine how the animal, the hybrid, and the machine show us different definitions of a kind of life that can be called melancholic, heroic, or even tragic. Readings will be taken primarily from the works of Franz Kafka. We will also engage other texts, essays, poems, and films from the 19th/20th centuries that have also shaped literary expression. *Prerequisite:* German 128 or equivalent.

RU237 Sinners and Saints: Women in Russian Literature and Culture (in English)

Four credit hours. L.

This course focuses on the experiences--both lived and imagined--of Russian women from the nineteenth century. We will examine the portrayal of women in Russian print and visual culture and focus on how gender is depicted in a variety of contexts, including "high" and "low" literature; folklore and fiction; advertisements and film; political tracts and memoirs. Our discussion will take into account questions of gender and the role of the family in day-to-day life and society at large; we will analyze how women's roles evolved in a country that went through radical and abrupt changes.

Janplan

SPRING

EA120 Nature in East Asian Literature and Culture

Four credit hours. L, W1. Besio

Combines readings of traditional literature with an exploration of the perceived relationship between nature and man, as reflected in the literary, visual, and material culture of China, Japan, and Korea. Students will improve writing skills through weekly writing reflections, two short essays, and one research paper. Other goals include, hone analytical skills through close reading of East Asian texts; reflect critically on the relationship between the natural world and man in East Asian culture, and how these views might enrich our own; and acquire an understanding of how literature and art can both shape and reflect our world view.

FR238 Introduction to the Francophone World: Africa

Four credit hours. I. Niang

What does the term "Francophone" mean? Is it free from polemics? What is its history? Introduction to Africa from the 19th to the 21st century surveys many of the multifaceted cultural identities and histories of the former French-speaking colonies on the continent. Topics include colonization, politics, gender, language, the fight for independence, modernity and tradition, and the major literary movements in Francophone Africa. Course materials will include film, music, art, folktales, poetry, maps, newspaper articles, literary works, excerpts from scholarly texts, and films. *Prerequisite:* French 128, 131, or 240D.

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.

FR361 Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands

Four credit hours. I. Mauguiere

Explores issues of race, gender, identity, diversity, cultural contact, and conflict in Indian Ocean island cultures and literatures written in French through selected writings from Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion, the Seychelles, and the Comoros. We will examine the complex social, cultural, and historical context of the region with an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include slavery, "*marronage*", cultural hybridity, "*métissage*," "*coolitude*," and the development of colonial and postcolonial identities and subjectivities. Students will develop their presentation and writing skills through the production of critical essays and research projects. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.

IT246 Wild Writing: A Comparative Experiential Approach to Ecopoetics (in English)

Four credit hours. Cannamela

Explores how the notion of "wilderness" has shifted across epochs and cultures. Students will conduct textual analysis of contemporary poetry and lyrical prose, compare and contrast Italian and English literature, and engage in experiential activities, including hands-on projects and a writing retreat on Colby Island Campus, led by British ecopoet Helen Moore. Conducted in English.

GM236 ConTexts in German Culture

Four credit hours. Koch

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.

GM493 Seminar: Ideologies and Identities

Four credit hours. L. Ellis

Critically assesses ways German art and culture engage with ideologies and questions of personal, cultural, and political concepts of identity. Among key ideas, the persistent "German question," along with notions of *Heimat*, regional and transnational belonging, gender, language politics, class, race. Discussions based on representative readings (poetry, prose, and drama), forms of artistic expression (music, visual art, and film), theory and secondary literature from the Enlightenment through the present-day Berlin Republic. Students write weekly response papers and short critical essays, participate in a writing workshop, complete a final research paper in German, and present research findings in a public symposium. *Prerequisite:* A 300-level German course and senior standing.

RU231 A 20th Century Childhood: Growing up in Russia and the USSR

Four credit hours. L. Orte

Since the Romantic Age, childhood has been recognized as a world apart, associated with a type of freedom, play, and natural innocence that we leave behind when we become adults, for better or worse. Russian and Soviet writers took up this multifaceted theme in various ways: to depict a more authentic relation to life, to reflect on painful loss and the passage of time, to provide an estranged perspective on the world, and to represent education and coming of age. Furthermore, the world of childhood, with its nonsensical nursery rhymes, fantasies and fairytales, gave writers living under an authoritarian regime ways to express themselves creatively and thwart the one-size-fits-all "realism" prescribed by the Soviet state. In this class, we will trace the genesis, development and diverse treatments of childhood from the foundational text by Tolstoy to the end of the USSR.

RU428 Seminar in Russian Culture and Literature

Four credit hours. L. Orte

This capstone course takes an interdisciplinary approach to masterpieces of Russian culture in a variety of disciplines and genres. Topics vary and may include questions of gender, sexuality, race, class, the natural world, Russia and the West, history, and others. Emphasis on close reading and analysis of authentic texts in their cultural context. Conducted entirely in Russian and may include an array of works or focus on one larger literary work. *Prerequisite:* Russian 425 or 427.

SP135B Introduction to Critical Analysis: Indigeneous 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.