Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Director
• Russell Ganim

Faculty: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/people
Web site: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/

The Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures includes several academic units: the Departments of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, French and Italian, German, and Spanish and Portuguese, and the programs in American Sign Language, Comparative Literature, Second Language Acquisition, and Translation. A new minor also is available—translation for global literacy. In addition to providing administrative leadership for all of its units, the division fosters interdisciplinary scholarship in languages, literatures, and cultures. It encourages synergy and collaboration among its faculty members and enhances opportunities for cross-cultural course development and research.

Undergraduate and graduate programs in the division serve students with varied interests and career aspirations, educating them to become global citizens who understand and are understood by diverse populations. Students are trained to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, capable scholars, lucid writers, and proficient speakers. The division offers instruction in a wide array of languages and in the cultures associated with them:

American Sign Language Program: American Sign Language and deaf studies
Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures: Chinese, Czech, Hindi-Urbu, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Sanskrit
Department of French and Italian: Arabic, French, Italian, Swahili
Department of German: German
Department of Spanish and Portuguese: Portuguese, Spanish

In addition to providing language instruction, the division focuses on theoretical and applied linguistics; non-Anglophone literatures and cultures, including those of bilingual, deaf, postcolonial, and heritage communities; and aesthetics, cultural theory, and creative writing in languages other than English.

The division's Second Language Acquisition Program brings multidisciplinary resources together to examine the processes that underlie non-native-language learning. The Translation Program explores the literary, cultural, and historical contexts of work and their linguistic, aesthetic, and ideological dimensions while it builds skills for translating works from one language to another. The Comparative Literature Program addresses culture across regions and languages in relation to literature, social theory and philosophy, history, and other disciplines. The minor in translation for global literacy introduces undergraduate students to the exploration of translation both as a practical application and as a tool for global literacy.

The division also administers the Language Media Center, which provides facilities for traditional language laboratory work as well as for language video and computer-based activities. The center sponsors a multimedia development studio, where faculty members and graduate students produce and test media-based materials for language instruction.

Courses

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Lower-Level Undergraduate

WLLC:1100 Contraception Across Time and Cultures 3 s.h.
Methods and history of contraception and abortion; issues of unwanted pregnancy and birth control in fiction, film, and media around the world. Same as GHS:1100, CLSA:1100.

WLLC:1355 Approaches to Global Cultural Studies 3 s.h.
Framework for thinking about global perspectives on culture; examination of themes within a transnational context; analysis of cultural expression from national and linguistic contexts.

WLLC:2550 Mardi Gras and More: Cultures of Carnival 3-4 s.h.
Literature and customs associated with carnival from antiquity through present day; readings on theories of carnivalesque (Mikhail Bakhtin, Peter Burke, and others); materials from three distinct carnival cultures—Renaissance Europe (Francois Rabelais, German carnival plays), 19th-century New Orleans, and present day Rio de Janeiro. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as GRMN:2550.

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

WLLC:3185 Global Women’s Cinema 3 s.h.
Introduction to contemporary women’s cinema and feminist filmmaking from around the world; emphasis on post-1968 period and cinema produced outside the United States. Same as GWSS:3185, CINE:3185.

WLLC:3191 International Literature Today 1,3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3595, IWP:3191.
WLLC:3700 Topics in Global Cinema 3 s.h.
Identification of new models and methods to investigate cinema's relationship to current global issues beyond traditional scholarly focus in Western Europe and the United States; exploration of an emerging field, moving away from the paradigm of national cinema and bringing together shared theoretical frameworks while acknowledging different historical and cultural contexts. Same as SLAV:3700, ASIA:3700.

WLLC:3834 Arab Spring in Context: Media, Religion, and Geopolitics 3 s.h.
Protest movements that started in Tunisia in 2011 and swept across North Africa and the Middle East transforming Arab and Islamic societies in radically different ways; function of social media, satellite television, communication technology; influence of religious leaders and groups on some protest outcomes; impact of wealth and geopolitics on social fabric of Islamic societies within and outside Arab countries. Requirements: for COMM:3834 — g.p.a. of at least 2.50, completion of Foundations of Communication requirement, and 6 s.h. of intermediate-level course work. Same as RELS:3834, IS:3834, JMC:3146, COMM:3834.

WLLC:4512 Topics in Global and Transnational Culture 3-4 s.h.
In-depth look at a theme in cultural expression arising from interactions between countries and regions; focus on contemporary or historical issues; use of materials ranging from literature and the visual arts to music, mass media, and more; general processes through which cultures are formed in mutual and uneven relationships; research project. Recommendations: completion of an international and global issues GE course. Same as GRMN:4512, ARAB:4512.

WLLC:4800 Topics in Global and Transnational Culture arr.
In-depth look at a theme in cultural expression arising from interactions between countries and regions; focus on contemporary or historical issues; material from literature, visual arts, music, mass media, and more; general process through which cultures are formed in mutual and uneven relationships; original research project. Requirements: a general education course in international and global issues.

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Graduate

WLLC:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3 s.h.
Readings in pedagogical theory and practice, second language acquisition; experience designing activities for teaching and assessment with critiques based on current theories and approaches; development of reflective practices toward one's language teaching. Same as SLA:5000, FREN:5000, SPAN:5000, GRMN:5001.

WLLC:6320 Topics in Contemporary Critical Theory 3 s.h.
Focused discussion of critical discourses and paradigms that have contributed to development of contemporary literary and cultural theory.
TRNS:4100 Approaches to Critical Theory 3 s.h.
Introduction to major critical approaches in literary and cultural theory from a variety of traditions; studying existing models, students learn to think theoretically about language and society, and to orient themselves among existing theoretical discourses, interrogating the latter critically in terms of their own perspectives and theoretical needs; selections from influential works, shared class discussion, and presentations; no prior knowledge in the area of critical theory is presumed. Same as CL:4100.

TRNS:4481 Introduction to Computer-Assisted Translation 1 s.h.
Translation memory, terminology management, multimodal translation, and project management to increase proficiency in a range of technological skills; evolving translation technologies emphasize learning skills required to employ tools of today and effectively learn to use those of tomorrow; use of translation technology in freelance and agency settings from document receipt through delivery. Requirements: completion of General Education Program rhetoric and interpretation of literature requirements.

TRNS:4497 Techniques of Translation 3 s.h.
Prerequisites: FREN:3300. Same as FREN:4890.

Translation, Graduate

TRNS:5205 International Translation Workshop 1-3 s.h.
International writers pair with University of Iowa translators to write new works of poetry and fiction in English; second-language fluency not required for international writers. Same as IWP:5205.

TRNS:5491 Translation Internship arr.

TRNS:5500 Advanced Translation Practice 1-3 s.h.
Substantial translation project guided by a faculty advisor; readings and assignments designed to help translator with particular tasks and challenges presented by the project; translation and critical/reflective writing. Prerequisites: TRNS:6459 and TRNS:7460. Requirements: advanced-level translator in literary translation M.F.A. program.

TRNS:6050 Independent Study arr.

TRNS:6400 Thesis arr.
Translation thesis with critical introduction.

TRNS:6459 Issues in Translation 3 s.h.
Contemporary and historical theories.

TRNS:7460 Translation Workshop 4 s.h.
Requirements: at least one foreign language. Same as IWP:7460.