Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Director
• Jill N. Beckman (Linguistics)

Faculty: https://dwllc.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://dwllc.uiowa.edu/

Courses

Most Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures courses are offered by the division’s departments and programs. They are listed and described in the corresponding General Catalog sections.

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Comparative Literature

CL:2248 The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers 3 s.h.
Invention of writing as one of the most momentous events in the history of human civilizations; how the use of written sign systems, notations, maps, graphs, encryptions, and most recently, computer programs have consequences that reach deeply into all aspects of people’s lives; how writing fascinates and delights, fosters reflexive thinking and facilitates development of complex societies, and gives rise to institutions of social power and control; students explore the invention of writing and its consequences in broad international and interdisciplinary context. Taught in English. Same as ANTH:2248, ASIA:2248, CLSA:2048, COMM:2248, GRMN:2248, HIST:2148, IS:2248, LING:2248, TRNS:2248, WLLC:2248.

CL:4800 Seminar in Comparative Literature 3 s.h.
Focus on comparative, interdisciplinary, theoretical, and/or inter-arts topic; topics vary; required for comparative literature major. Taught in English. Same as GRMN:4800, GWSS:4800, TRNS:4800, WLLC:4801.

World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

WLLC:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first-semester standing.

WLLC:1016 Classical Chinese Short Fiction 1 s.h.

WLLC:1131 Introduction to Russian Culture 3 s.h.
Development of cultural history in Russia during the Romanov period (1613-1917); painting, music, architecture, and literature viewed against their political, historical, and social settings. Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture. Same as RUSS:1131.

WLLC:1200 Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World 3 s.h.

WLLC:1510 Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of Chinese literature concerning ghosts, marvels, and supernatural from the first millennium B.C.E. through the 1800s; readings analyzed against changing historical and religious contexts. Taught in English. Recommendations: completion of all required ESL courses. GE: Interpretation of Literature. Same as ASIA:1510.

WLLC:2001 Global Science Fiction 3 s.h.

WLLC:2006 Transnational Solidarities 3-4 s.h.
Examination of connections forged by intellectuals, activists, and political thinkers in struggles against systems of colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, and state violence throughout the 20th century; opportunities to make connection with other struggles against racism, supremacy, patriarchy, and domination; optional discussion section taught in Arabic. Taught in English. Requirements: for 4 s.h. option—ARAB:1002. Same as ARAB:2006, SJUS:2006.

WLLC:2050 Women from an Unknown Land: The Fight for Independence 3 s.h.
Exploration of past and current issues related to the Caucasus—a mountainous region located where Europe, the Middle East, and Asia meet—forming a geographical and cultural crossroad; topics include those related to women’s rights, causes of poverty and ethnic conflicts, and foreign policy including terrorism in the region, the fight for freedom, and the struggle over natural resources. Taught in English. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as RUSS:2050.

WLLC:2222 Women in Premodern East Asian Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of East Asian literature portraying women from the first millennium B.C.E. through the 1800s; discussion of issues related to representations of women and conventional social, familial roles in premorden China, Korea, and Japan; cross-cultural comparison of different perceptions and portrayals of women in premorden East Asian literary traditions. Taught in English. Recommendations: completion of all ESL courses. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as ASIA:2222, GWSS:2222.
WLLC:2248 The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers 3 s.h.
Invention of writing as one of the most momentous events in the history of human civilizations; how the use of written sign systems, notations, maps, graphs, encryptions, and most recently, computer programs have consequences that reach deeply into all aspects of people's lives; how writing fascinates and delights, fosters reflexive thinking and facilitates development of complex societies, and gives rise to institutions of social power and control; students explore the invention of writing and its consequences in broad international and interdisciplinary context. Taught in English. Same as ANTH:2248, ASIA:2248, CL:2248, CLSA:2048, COMM:2248, GRMN:2248, HIST:2148, IS:2248, LING:2248, TRNS:2248.

WLLC:2473 Cinderella 3 s.h.
Comparative analysis of Cinderella stories from around the world including Asia, Europe, Africa, South America; readings, discussion, workshops, and writing; consideration of visual and material presentation of Cinderella stories in physical books. Taught in English. Same as FREN:2473, TRNS:2473.

WLLC:2618 Film and Literature of the Holocaust 3-4 s.h.
European and American films (e.g., documentaries, feature films); literature of the Holocaust in English translation (e.g., survivor memoirs, testimony, poetry, philosophical essays, graphic novels). Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture. Same as GRMN:2618.

WLLC:2620 Anne Frank and Her Story 3-4 s.h.
Analysis of the Diary of Anne Frank, its media adaptations, and related materials (e.g., fictionalizations, additional first-hand accounts); examination of Holocaust in the Netherlands, Belgium, and other countries outside Germany; anti-Semitism, discrimination, tolerance, resistance, identity formation, human aspiration and belief. Taught in English. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as GRMN:2620.

WLLC:2666 Pact with the Devil 3-4 s.h.
Pact with the devil has served as a metaphor for humankind's desire to surpass the limits of knowledge and power and engage with the forbidden; students explore a variety of works—mostly from German literature and culture—from early modern time to present, and critique different twists that fascination with the forbidden takes with regard to women. Taught in English. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts. Same as GRMN:2666.

WLLC:2949 Accountability, War Crimes, and Justice 3-4 s.h.
Introduction to current juridical and nonjuridical approaches to hold perpetrators (e.g., states, state actors, individuals) of war crimes accountable in international criminal and humanitarian law; students examine concepts such as universal jurisdiction, which has been successfully deployed in German courts, and corporate accountability through recent case studies. Taught in English. Same as GRMN:2949.

WLLC:3000 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Lower-Level Language 0-5 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in language courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program; not an elementary/intermediate language sequence.

WLLC:3001 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Elementary I 1-6 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program; first in a language sequence.

WLLC:3002 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Elementary II 1-6 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program; second in a language sequence. Requirements: WLLC:3001 or equivalent language background.

WLLC:3003 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Intermediate I 1-6 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program; third in a language sequence. Requirements: WLLC:3002 or equivalent language background.

WLLC:3004 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Intermediate II 1-6 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program; fourth in a language sequence. Requirements: WLLC:3003 or equivalent language background.

WLLC:3005 Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Upper-Level Language 1-6 s.h.
Opportunity for students from universities across the Big Ten to participate in language courses together; part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare program. Requirements: WLLC:3004 or equivalent language background.

WLLC:3105 Contraception Across Time and Cultures 3 s.h.
Methods and history of contraception; issues of unwanted pregnancy and birth control in fiction, film, and media around the world. Same as CLSA:3105, GHS:3105, GWSS:3105.

WLLC:3122 Tolstoy and Dostoevsky 3-4 s.h.
Tolstoy's War and Peace and Anna Karenina; Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, The Demons, and short stories. Taught in English. Same as RUS:3122, TRNS:3122.

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.

WLLC:3191 International Literature Today 1.3 s.h.
English majors and English and Creative Writing 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, TRNS:3191.

WLLC:3202 Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917 3 s.h.
Survey of major works, figures, and trends of 19th- and early 20th-century Russian literature; age of the Russian novel; works of Turgeniev (Fathers and Sons), Tolstoy (Confession), Dostoevsky (The Idiot, The Brothers Karamazov), and Chekhov (plays). Taught in English. Same as HIST:3492, RUSS:3202, TRNS:3203.
Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation 3 s.h.

Comparative Arts 3 s.h.
Cultural and aesthetic issues arising from side-by-side investigation of several art forms, including literature, cinema, painting, music, opera, architecture; periods, schools, styles, and their theories. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:3210, FREN:3210, IWP:3210.

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. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:3700, JPN:3700, TRNS:3700.

Cultural Studies Conference 1 s.h.
Attendance and participation in a conference of importance to world and cultural studies; discussion of preparatory readings in weekly meetings.

Critical Reading 3 s.h.
Analysis of different types of texts—theoretical, cultural, political, philosophical, literary, poetic—and exploration of varying ways to frame and read them. Same as TRNS:4131.

Slavery Museums, Memorials, and Statues in the United States, Europe, and the Global South 3-4 s.h.
Comparative study of museums, memorials, statues, performances, and artistic works that encapsulate the entangled history and memory of transoceanic slave trades and slavery in the United States, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe (France and the United Kingdom); critical tools to analyze public debates over politically charged monuments; exploration of transnational and political predilections of the contemporary world; approaches include trauma theories, memory studies, history, postcolonial ecocriticism, cultural anthropology, heritage studies and museology, and Francophone cultural critique. Taught in English. Requirements: for 4 s.h. option—prior enrollment in FREN:3060 and FREN:3300. Same as FREN:4210, MUSM:4310.

Seminar in Comparative Literature 3 s.h.
Focus on comparative, interdisciplinary, theoretical, and/or inter-arts topic; topics vary; required for comparative literature major. Taught in English. Same as CL:4800, GRMN:4800, GWSS:4800, TRNS:4800.

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. Taught in English. Same as FREN:5000, GRMN:5001, SLA:5000, SPAN:5000.