Comparative Literature

Comparative Literature examines literature across national, cultural and linguistic boundaries. The broad perspective of Comparative Literature generates sustained critical thinking about what literature is and does; how literature relates to other fields and kinds of writing; how literary texts produce meaning; and the ethical valence of literature in a globalized world. Advanced knowledge of a foreign language is essential for understanding and appreciating a given literature and culture. Therefore, all majors study a foreign language and literature at an advanced level. Moreover, the study of works in translation, especially those originally written in non-European languages, facilitates cross-cultural comparisons and helps prepare students for a multilingual, pluralistic and global world. Comparison of literature to other arts, media and other modes of writing develops one’s understanding of literature and culture, as well as of technologies and aesthetic forms of mediation and transmission of world views, values and critiques.

Comparative Literature offers students:

- A high degree of flexibility in their course selection and in their chosen program.
- A rich array of courses spanning national, temporal or medial boundaries organized by genre (e.g., postmodern narrative, comedy, the novel, lyric poetry); cultural issues (e.g., exile, diaspora, cross-cultural encounters); themes (e.g., memory, obsession in the novel, mysticism in poetry); period (Romanticism, the Renaissance); and transnational region (e.g., Middle Eastern literature, African literature).
- Courses that instruct the student in the central practices, approaches and theories of the discipline: an entry-level course titled “World Literature,” “Introduction to Comparative Arts,” and courses on literature, literary theory and translation.
- Preparation for life in a global, multicultural and plurilingual world. The critical thinking developed in all of our courses can help students succeed in law and other professional schools. Many of our graduates have gone on to careers in secondary or higher education. With the help of our major and the semester or year abroad that we encourage, some graduates have pursued careers in international affairs, teaching English as a second language abroad, and international humanitarian programs such as the Peace Corps.

Comparative Literature and the Arts & Sciences Curriculum

Comparative Literature offers freshman seminars, writing-intensive courses and various capstone experiences, including directed research, creative projects and internships appropriate to a student’s field.

Phone: (314) 935-5170
E-mail: complit@artsci.wustl.edu
Departmental website: http://complit.artsci.wustl.edu

Director
Lynne Tatlock
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University

Endowed Professors
Robert E. Hegel
Liselotte Dieckmann Professor of Comparative Literature in Arts & Sciences and Professor of Chinese
PhD, Columbia University

Paul Michael Lützeler
Rosa May Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities
PhD, Indiana University

Timothy Moore
John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics
PhD, University of North Carolina

Gerhild Scholz Williams
Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities; Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
PhD, University of Washington

Professors
Nancy E. Berg
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Matt Erlin
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Robert K. Henke
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Joseph Loewenstein
PhD, Yale University

Marvin H. Marcus
PhD, University of Michigan

Stamos Metzidakis
PhD, Columbia University

Anca Parvuescu
PhD, University of Minnesota

Wolfram Schmidgen
PhD, University of Chicago

Henry Schvey
Professor of Drama
PhD, Indiana University
Associate Professors

Miriam Bailin
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Andrew Brown
PhD, University of Virginia

J. Dillon Brown
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Lingchei Letty Chen
PhD, Columbia University

Tili Boon Cuillé
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Kapczynski
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Catherine Keane
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Stephanie Kirk
PhD, New York University

Tabea Linhard
PhD, Duke University

Erin McGlothlin
PhD, University of Virginia

Jessica Rosenfeld
PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Assistant Professors

Kurt Beals
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Ignacio Infante
PhD, Rutgers University

Anne-Marie McManus
PhD, Yale University

Lecturers

Emma Kafalenos
Senior Lecturer (retired)
PhD, Washington University

Philip Purchase
PhD, University of Southern California

Professors Emeritae

Milica Banjanin
PhD, Washington University

Naomi Lebowitz
Hortense and Tobias Lewin Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Humanities
PhD, Washington University

Majors

The Major in Comparative Literature

Units required: 27

Required courses:

- 27 units of Comparative Literature courses, which include:
  - Comp Lit 211 World Literature (3 units)
  - Comp Lit 3050 Literary Modernities (3 units)
  - Seven additional courses in Comparative Literature at both the 300 and 400 levels (21 units). With permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the student may substitute up to 6 units of appropriate foreign literature courses at the 300 or 400 level.
- The major also requires completion of a capstone experience. Students who are double majoring may elect to complete their capstone in the other major.
- Students in Comparative Literature are also expected to have had substantial college-level experience of foreign language study as demonstrated by completion of either one 400-level foreign language course or two 300-level courses.

The Major in Comparative Arts

Units required: 27

Required courses:

- 21 units in Comparative Literature courses, which include:
  - Comp Lit 211 World Literature (3 units)
  - Comp Lit 313E Introduction to Comparative Arts (3 units)
  - Five additional courses at both the 300 and 400 levels (15 units) including one course on interrelations between literature and other art forms. With permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the student may substitute up to 6 units of appropriate foreign literature courses at the 300 and 400 level.
- 6 units advanced study (300-level or above) in theoretical or historical courses in aesthetics, art history, dance, drama, film or music. (Students with minors or majors in one of these fields may elect to substitute 6 units in Comparative Literature).
- The major also requires completion of a capstone experience. Students who are double majoring may elect to complete their capstone in the other major.
- Students of Comparative Arts are also expected to have had substantial college-level experience of foreign language study as demonstrated by the completion of either one 400-level foreign language course or two 300-level courses. They
are also expected to pursue work in an applied art form — music, fine arts, drama, dance or creative writing — for four semesters. This course work need not be conducted at the 300 or 400 level.

*Students should be aware that courses satisfying the major requirements in another department cannot also be counted in satisfaction of the major requirements in Comparative Literature or Comparative Arts.

### Additional Information

**Senior Honors:** To be considered for honors, a student must have a 3.65 GPA by the end of the sixth semester and must be approved by either the Director of Comparative Literature or the Director of Undergraduate Studies to write a Senior Honors thesis. Honors courses (Comp Lit 497 Independent Work for Senior Honors and Comp Lit 498 Independent Work for Senior Honors) supplement the major and do not satisfy any of the above requirements.

### Minors

**The Minor in Comparative Literature**

Units required: 15

**Required courses:** 15 units of study distributed as follows:

- Comp Lit 211 World Literature (3 units)
- Comp Lit 3050 Literary Modernities (3 units)
- Three additional Comparative Literature courses at the 300 or 400 level

Minors in comparative literature are also expected to have had substantial college-level experience of foreign language study as demonstrated by completion of either one 400-level foreign language course or two 300-level foreign language courses.

**The Minor in Comparative Arts**

Units required: 15

**Required courses:** 15 units of study, distributed as follows:

- 6 units in Comparative Literature, which include:
  - Comp Lit 211 World Literature (3 units)
  - Comp Lit 313E Introduction to Comparative Arts (3 units)
- One more Comparative Literature course at the 300 or 400 level
- 6 units of advanced study (300-level or above) in theoretical or historical courses in music, art history, drama, dance, film or aesthetics. (Students with majors or minors in one of these fields may elect to substitute 6 units in Comparative Literature.)
- Minors in comparative arts are also expected to have had substantial college-level experience of foreign language study as demonstrated by completion of either one 400-level foreign language course or two 300-level foreign language courses.

### Courses

Visit https://courses.wustl.edu to view semester offerings for L16 Comp Lit.

**L16 Comp Lit 1024 Mozart**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most recognized composers of “classical” music. A child prodigy of astonishing precocity, he has come to symbolize genius for Western culture — a composer whose music embodies superhuman, even utopian beauty and perfection. In this course, we learn that there was more to Mozart. Mozart was a lover of codes and puzzles who delighted in the science of music, a sampler of non-Western music, and a musical humorist whose comedies make provocative statements — ranging from cynical to poignant — about politics, gender and morality. Our focus works include Mozart’s symphonies, piano music, string quartets, and such comedies as The Magic Flute and The Marriage of Figaro. We also explore Mozart’s afterlife — how his music has figured in film, literature and popular culture. This course is open to all undergraduates — no previous musical course work or experience is required.

Same as Music 1024

Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S IQ: HUM, BU: HUM EN: H

**L16 Comp Lit 115 Freshman Seminar**

A variety of topics in comparative literature, designed for first-year students — no special background is required — to be conducive to the investigation and discussion format of a seminar.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM

**L16 Comp Lit 137A Freshman Seminar**

The destructive, scandal-ridden career of the Roman emperor Nero (mid-1st century CE) almost defies belief. From his assumption of power as a teenager to his suicide after a military revolt, Nero flouted political and cultural conventions left and right. His inspiring debut notwithstanding, he killed off his family and mentor, held wild parties, poured money into extravagant projects, and neglected state business to pursue a career on stage. He came to be labeled one of the “Bad Emperors,” and seen as a symbol of the decline of Rome itself — especially by sympathizers of the Christians he persecuted. Yet Nero as an emperor and a literary character was also a creation of his time. The figure of Nero is examined in his context. The central text is the Life of Nero by Suetonius (2nd c CE), a dense and colorful text read first in its entirety and then more carefully in pieces. Supplementary readings are from the abundant other sources on and interpretations of Nero, both ancient and modern. Discussions and writing assignments are varied and designed to develop analytical and writing skills.

Same as Classics 137

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, BU: HUM

**L16 Comp Lit 1511 The Birth of Venus**

This course examine the art, politics and history of Renaissance Florence, Venice, Ferrara and Rome. We study how love, beauty, religion and politics were intertwined in these cities. We consider how the flourishing of the arts occurred along with the
oppressive rule of the Church; why, for one out of two women in upper-class families, the choice was the convent rather than marriage; the rise of courtesan culture and pornography; conspicuous consumption; healing as a matter of faith and a matter of science. Professor Wallace presents the great artists who worked in these cities, including works by Donatello, Masaccio, Brunelleschi, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo and Vasari. Professor Stone examines Sarah Dunant's trilogy of best-selling historical novels: The Birth of Venus, set in Florence; In the Company of the Courtesans, set in Venice; and Sacred Hearts, set in Ferrara. Ms. Dunant, who is a visitor to the University during part of the semester, introduces the class to historical documents that she used in creating her novels. Guest lecturer Professor Monson (Music Department) explores connections between nuns who make both music and magic. Open to freshmen and sophomores only.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: AH EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 151C Freshman Seminar: Immigrants and Exiles

Reading courses, each limited to 15 students. Topics: selected writers, varieties of approaches to literature, e.g., Southern fiction, the modern American short story, the mystery; consult Course Listings. Prerequisite: first-year standing.

Same as E Lit 151

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 153 Laughter: From Aristotle to Seinfeld

Same as E Lit 153

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 201A Classical to Renaissance Literature: Text and Tradition

As we study some of the most influential of ancient works we address the basic questions of liberal education. Why ought the classics be read in the first place? How is it that Western culture has come to value certain fundamental questions, even to the point of encouraging opposition? Texts include selections from the Old Testament, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Virgil, Ovid, Petrarach, Montaigne and Shakespeare. Preference given to Text and Tradition and IPH students. Same as IPH 201C

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 204 Crossing Borders: An Introduction to Comparative Literature

An introduction to some of the ideas and practices of literary studies at the beginning of the 21st century. This course is designed for majors and prospective majors in comparative literature and comparative arts — and other students interested in reading literature from many parts of the world and exploring issues in literary studies including questions of epistemology and representation, the cultural biases of readers, semiotics, translation theory and Orientalism. Plays, novels and poems by writers including Euripides, Vergil, Racine, Rilke, Henry James, Borges, Meliaah and Murakami, and closely related short excerpts by theorists from Aristotle to Bhabha. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 206 Opera

Opera combines media like no other art form: music, drama, visual spectacle, and virtuosic vocal performance. In this course, we ask such enduring questions as: Why sing stories and not merely speak them? Why have so many cultures turned to musical theater to portray iconic narratives and characters? By exploring works ranging from Baroque opera to Broadway musicals (including Monteverdi, Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet, Sondheim, and Adams), students gain a panoramic view of this tradition and develop the skills to understand and interpret the rich interaction of music, text and drama at the heart of opera. No previous musical experience required.

Same as IPH 260

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 206C "Reading" Culture: Photography and Power: Photography, Film and Social Struggle in American History

Same as AMCS 206

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 209 Scriptures and Cultural Traditions

Same as IPH 209

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 211 World Literature

This course teaches ways of reading literature across Eastern and Western cultures, introducing students to works of great imaginative power from many different regions of the world. The course focuses on a given historical period, such as the modern period or antiquity (the latter including Near Eastern as well as European texts). Organizing themes may include cultural translation, cross-cultural encounter (e.g., Orientalism), hybridity and displacement.


L16 Comp Lit 213E Introduction to Comparative Arts

A variety of topics in comparative literature, designed for first-year students — no special background is required — to be conducive to the investigation and discussion format of a seminar.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 215C Introduction to Comparative Practice I

This course permits the close examination of a particular theme or question studied comparatively, that is, with a cross-cultural focus involving at least two national literatures. Topics are often interdisciplinary; they explore questions pertinent to literary study that also engage history, philosophy and/or the visual arts. Although the majority of works studied are texts, the course frequently pursues comparisons of texts and images (painting, photography, film). Requirements may include frequent short papers, response papers and/or exams.

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 219C Topics in Comparative Literature

An examination of how life, suffering and hope are reflected in stories by major Israeli and Arab writers of the 20th century. Themes examined: war, sacrifice, modernity, the erosion of religious faith. Short stories by Ben Ner, Yehoshua, Agran, Mahtouf, Idriis, Habibi and others are discussed. Analysis focuses on differences and similarities in society, culture and national concerns.
L16 Comp Lit 260 Cityscapes
Uses literature to explore past urban societies.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 300 Undergraduate Independent Study
Students pursue personalized projects not normally covered in standard courses at this level. Prerequisites: acceptance by an appropriate instructor of a proposed project and permission of the chair of the committee.
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3040 Introduction to Digital Humanities: Introduction to Digital Humanities: Cultural Analysis
It is a truism that computers have changed our lives and the way we think and interact. But in fact systematic efforts to apply current technologies to the study of history and culture have been rare. This course enable students to consider how these technologies might transform the humanities. We explore the various ways in which ideas and data in the humanities can be represented, analyzed and communicated. We also reflect on how the expansion of information technology has transformed and is continuing to transform the humanities, both with regard to their role in the university and in society at large. Readings and classwork are supplemented by small assigned digital projects culminating in a project chosen by the students themselves.
Same as IPH 340
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3050 Literary Modernities
The course examines the various facets of modernity in major works of European, Eurasian and, sometimes, American literature from the early 17th century to the 1920s, starting with Don Quixote. We explore, among other things, the eruption of the novel, the secularization of autobiography, the literary discovery of the city, the rise of literary and aesthetic criticism that takes literature and art seriously as political and social institutions. In addition to literary works, the course engages with two or three important models of critical practice, e.g., Wollstonecraft's Vindication of the Rights of Women, Marx's German Ideology, Freud's The Interpretation of Dreams, T.S. Eliot's Tradition and the Individual Talent, or perhaps that great work of fictionalized literary criticism, Borges' "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote."
Same as IPH 3050
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 306 Modern Jewish Writers
What is Jewish literature? While we begin with — and return to — the traditional question of definition, we take an unorthodox approach to the course. Reading beyond Bellow, Ozick and Wiesel, we look for enlightenment in unexpected places: Egypt, Latin America, Australia. Recent works by Philip Roth, Andre Aciman, Simone Zelitch and Terri-ann White are supplemented by guest lectures, film, short stories and significant essays. We focus on issues of language, memory and place. Background knowledge is not required, though it is warmly welcomed.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3071 Caribbean Literature
Rum! Fun! Beaches! Sun! This is the image of the Caribbean in America today. This course surveys literature and culture from these islands, looking both at and beyond this tourists' paradise. It aims to introduce students to the region's unmistakably vibrant tradition of multicultural mixture, while keeping an eye on the long history of slavery and rebellion out of which the islands' contemporary situation formed. Along the way we encounter a wide variety of texts, from the earliest writing focused on life in urban slums, to the first novels to have a Rastafarian as its hero, to more contemporary considerations of the region's uncertain place in a U.S.-dominated world. Toward the end of the course, we also look at important films like The Harder They Come as well as discussing the most globally famous cultural product of the contemporary Caribbean: reggae music. The course involves readings from multiple genres and covers authors such as C.L.R. James, Derek Walcott, Jean Rhys, V.S. Naipaul, Jamaica Kincaid, and Caryl Phillips.
Same as E Lit 3071
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3071A The Writing of the Indian Subcontinent
The Indian subcontinent has in recent years yielded a number of writers, expatriate or otherwise, whose works articulate the postcolonial experience in the "foreign" English tongue. This course is designed to be an introductory survey of such writing, drawing on select subcontinental writers. Covering both fiction and nonfiction by several authors including R.K. Narayan, Salman Rushdie, Anita Desai, Amitav Ghosh, Sara Suleri, Micheal Ondaatjie and Ramesh Guhshereka, we discuss such issues as the nature of the colonial legacy, the status of the English language, problems of translation (linguistic and cultural), the politics of religion, the expatriate identity and the constraints of gender roles.
Same as E Lit 3071
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 311A Topics in English and American Literature: International Modernism
Topics: themes, formal problems, literary genres, special subjects (e.g., the American West, science and literature, the modern short story). Consult Course Listings for offerings in any given semester.
Same as E Lit 311
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 312A Medieval Romance and Arthurian Legend
The romance grows out of the epic: how we get from the fall of Troy to the fall of Troilus. Readings from Vergil's Aeneid to Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.
Same as E Lit 3121
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 312C The Literature of Obsession
Same as E Lit 312W
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S IQ: HUM, WI BU: HUM
L16 Comp Lit 312 Romantic Revolutions in European Music and Culture
The early 19th century in Europe witnessed sweeping changes in social, political, and cultural life, but some of the most fascinating happened in music. This course considers intersections between Romantic thinking about music — which inspired an idealistic vision of the art form as a source of quasi-spiritual experience — and other contemporary “revolutions.” To what extent was Romantic music a “holy art” that offered a refuge from the world? In what ways was it a worldly participant in larger currents in society and culture? By exploring these questions and more, students develop the skills and framework needed to incorporate works of music into their investigation of enduring issues in history and the humanities. Although this course requires listening and viewing of musical works, it is designed for students with intellectual curiosity but without prior musical background. We also require weekly readings, occasional presentations, three short papers, and spirited class discussion.
Same as Music 3132
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 313E Introduction to Comparative Arts
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 321 Transatlantic Foreignisms, 1878–1946
Intensive study of one or more American writers. Consult Course Listings for offerings in any given semester.
Same as E Lit 323

L16 Comp Lit 325A Introduction to Arabic Literature
A survey of the major genres and themes in Arabic literature from the pre-Islamic era to the modern period. Texts include pre-Islamic, classical and Sufi poetry, as well as popular tales and critical prose from the Umayyad and Abbasid empires and Andalusia. The modern sections of the course interrogate political commitment in Arabic literature and introduce students to feminist and magical realist novels from North Africa and the Levant. All readings are in English translation.
Same as Arab 325
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 3263 Topics in EAS: After Shock: Environmental Disasters in Modern East Asian Literature & Media
A topics course on a variety of East Asian subjects.
Same as East Asia 3263
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 3301 Topics in Chinese Literature and Culture
Same as Chinese 330
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS

L16 Comp Lit 331A Topics in Holocaust Studies
Content variable.
Same as German 331

L16 Comp Lit 331C Tragedy
What is the relationship between freedom and luck? How do men and women respond to large forces beyond their control? Is character a struggle against outside events, or is it a submission to destiny? What happens when two ethical principles, taken absolutely, collide together? What is the nature of evil, and how does good respond to it? In ancient Greece, Renaissance England, 17th-century Europe, modern Europe and postcolonial Africa, the form of tragedy has grappled with these questions, generating both a rich body of imaginative literature and equally compelling philosophical reflections about tragedy. This course explores great works of tragic literature by authors such as Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Shakespeare, Racine, Ibsen, Dostoevsky, Miller and Soyinka, and examines philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Weil and Arendt in order to explore the questions raised by tragedy.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 332 Literature and Art
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 332C Comedy
This comparative course examines and enjoys the substances and forms of humor and comedy in different times and places. Some attention to jokes, gags and comics precedes a wide-ranging examination of literary comedy. A study of various plays and comic texts illuminates different forms of comedy, such as farce, satire, romantic comedy, comedy of manners, absurdist comedy and contemporary political comedy. Authors include Aristophanes, Plautus, Rabelais, Shakespeare, Molière, Fielding, Gogol, Wilde, Stoppard and Dario Fo.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 334 Love in the Novel/Love of the Novel
Our focus is our own pleasure in reading. How do we assure that this pleasure survives into the next century now that the visual, the sound bite, the video clip permeate our lives? We attempt to answer this question by rediscovering one of the great love stories of all times, Leo Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina. Daniel Pennac’s Reads Like A Novel, a recent work about the pleasures of reading for pleasure, guides us as we isolate elements of Tolstoy’s story that compel us, that teach us about our own needs and desires as readers. The class considers novels whose love stories are molded by the characters’ own reading: Austen’s Northanger Abbey, Flaubert’s Madame Bovary (1856), Proust’s Swann In Love, Skarmet’s Burning Patience, Bernhard Schlink’s The Reader. Far from being immune to or eclipsed by history and politics, the pleasure of reading is shown to reflect the reader’s appreciation of the larger fabric of society, where passion is set against war, prostitution, mental illness, adultery and prejudice.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 338C Postmodern Fiction and Graphic Novels
Genre as a comparative laboratory. A close examination of the nature, function and pleasures of given literary genres, such as epic or postmodern narrative.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 340A American Literature, 1914–1945
An introduction to major American works and writers from the later 19th century through the mid-20th century. Writers studied include Twain, James, Crane, Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner,
Frost, Eliot and Stevens. The course assumes no previous acquaintance with the material and is directed toward a broad range of majors and non-majors with a serious but not scholarly interest in the subject. Students with little or no background in literature might be advised to take E Lit 213G (Chief American Writers), while English majors looking to do advanced work should consider the 400-level American literature sequence. Students who have taken E Lit 213C should not enroll in this course.

Same as E Lit 340
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 349A Yidishkayt
This course traces the emergence, development, flourish and near-decline of Yiddish literature, beginning with some of the earliest writings to appear in Yiddish in the late middle ages and early modern period, continuing with 19th-century attempts to establish a modern Yiddish literature and the 20th-century emergence of both a classical canon and a literary avant-garde, and ending with post-Holocaust attempts to retain a Yiddish literary culture in the near absence of Yiddish-speaking communities. Focusing on the role of Yiddish as the "national" language of Ashkenaz, the course examines the ways in which Yiddish literature has responded to the social conditions of European Jewish life, exploring among others the relationship between Yiddish and the non-Jewish cultures in which it existed, the tensions between secular trends versus religious tradition, life in the shtetl and in the metropolis, immigration from the old world to the new, and Yiddish literary responses to the Holocaust.

Same as JINE 349
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 350 Introduction to South Asian Literature I
Same as Hindi 350
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 351 Issues in Comparative Literature
This course addresses current issues in Comparative Literature that relate to historical period, genre, theory, the metropole, etc. The specific topic varies from semester to semester.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S IQ: HUM, WI Art: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 3520 Introduction to Postcolonial Literature and Theory
At its zenith, the British Empire encompassed almost a quarter of the globe, allowing the diminutive island nation unprecedented economic, military and political influence upon the rest of the world. This course introduces some of the foundational responses to this dominance, both literary and theoretical, by the colonized and their descendants. We examine important critiques of colonialism by theorists such as Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, and Gayatri Spivak, as well as literary works that reflect a postcolonial critique by authors such as V.S. Naipaul, George Lamming, Doris Lessing, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. The course interrogates how literature could be said to help consolidate Empire as well as ways in which it might function as rebellion against imperial power, with a view toward teasing out the problematics of race, gender, language, nationalism and identity that postcolonial texts so urgently confront.

Same as E Lit 3520
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 355C The Flowering of Islamic Literature 500–1200
Exploration of the multilingual (Arabic, Persian, Turkish) literary cultures of a civilization that stretched from Spain to India. Themes and genres include early court propaganda, Bedouin odes, wine poetry, social satire, mystical poetry, national epic and the literature of love and romance. Comparisons to contemporaneous Hebrew and ancient and medieval Western literatures. Readings in English.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 358C Modern Near Eastern Literatures
Literary expressions of the struggle for love, self-realization and liberation. Romanticism, realism and the surreal. A comparative, team-taught approach to selected genres, authors or themes in two or more Near Eastern literatures (Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish) in English translation.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 360A Women and Contemporary European Cinema
What binds society together? One of the most influential answers to this question was offered by French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. He argued that the fabric of a society is formed by a network of exchanges among kinship groups, which circulate three kinds of objects: economic goods, linguistic signs and women. In this course, we inquire into the place of women in this argument. We trace rudiments of the traditional marriage system (a father figure still "gives away" the bride in the marriage ceremony), its range of displacements in a global economy (transnational wives, nannies and domestic servants), the role of new media in the formation of new systems of trafficking (internet brides), and the place of the debate on gay marriage within the larger conversation. We read texts by Friedrich Engels, Sigmund Freud, Marcel Mauss, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Gayle Rubin, Luce Irigaray, Judith Butler, Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild; and we watch a number of films that dramatize the traffic in women in the context of contemporary Europe: Coline Serreau's Choses d'écran, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's The Silence of Lorna and the place of the debate on gay marriage within the larger conversation. We read texts by Friedrich Engels, Sigmund Freud, Marcel Mauss, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Gayle Rubin, Luce Irigaray, Judith Butler, Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild; and we watch a number of films that dramatize the traffic in women in the context of contemporary Europe: Coline Serreau's Choses d'écran, Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's The Silence of Lorna.

Same as IPH 360
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 361 Russian Literature and Opera: Transpositions and Transgressions
Same as IAS 363
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 364 Literature and Ethics
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 3676 Rhetoric: Ancient and Modern
Rhetoric, or the art of persuasion, has played a prominent and controversial role in political and educational theory and practice. We survey rhetorical texts, ranging from Plato and Aristotle...
L16 Comp Lit 375 Paris and New York
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, SD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3751 In the Beginning: Creation Myths of the Biblical World
This course studies myths and epic literature from the Bible, ancient Egypt, the ancient Near East and ancient Greece about the birth of the gods, the creation of the world and of humanity, and the establishment of societies. These masterpieces of ancient literature recount the deeds of gods and heroes and humanity’s eternal struggle to come to terms with the world, supernatural powers, love, lust and death. This course examines how each culture borrows traditions and recasts them in a distinct idiom. The course further examines different approaches to mythology and to the study of ancient cultures and the Bible. Same as JINE 3751
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, WI A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 376 Topics in Comparative Literature II
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 3778 Comparative Studies in the Novel
This course introduces students to novels from a given period or from a geographical area, with attention to how novels are read and how they communicate.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 382C Iraqi Literature
This course introduces students to major works in Iraqi literature in the 20th and 21st centuries, with a focus on the post-World War II period up to the present day.
Same as Arab 352
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 385 Topics in Comparative Literature
Topics in Comparative Literature. Subject matter varies from semester to semester.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 386 The Literary 1960s: Years of Hope/Days of Rage
Taking its subtitle from the one used by Todd Gitlin for his monumental sociological study of the 1960s, this course focuses on the diverse and exciting literature of this often chaotic, always fascinating period. Readings include popular and influential books by Peter Weiss, Robbe-Grillet, Ken Kesey, Tom Wolfe, Germaine Greer, Eldridge Cleaver and Joan Didion. Attention is paid not only to important new artistic, political and social movements, as seen by these writers, but also to films and music of the time.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 389 Topics
Comparative study of a given question, theme or problem, such as eros or exile or cruelty.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM
L16 Comp Lit 405A Theory and Methods in the Humanities
Since the Enlightenment, humanists have taken special pains to reflect on the theoretical underpinnings of their analytic practice, explicitly considering such concepts as language, narrative, psychology, ideology, group identity, race, class and gender. In this course, students read a number of key theorists (e.g., Marx, Freud and Saussure) whose work continues to influence humanistic discourse. This spring’s iteration of the course gives special emphasis to the various frameworks through which scholars, critics and image-producers have understood the conception, fabrication and circulation of images. Same as IPH 405
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 406 Translation
This course looks at the practice and theory of literary translation. While the main focus is on the literary and linguistic processes involved in translating a text from one language to another, we spend much time exploring the cultural significance of translation in an increasingly interconnected world. Translation is one of the best ways to make the world accessible to us. Successful translation requires in-depth knowledge of the social and cultural conditions in which the original text is produced. It is equally important to be aware of the expectations of the readers who read the translated version. To balance these theoretical discussions with practical matters, we invite translators to the class to speak about their published works. The requirements include translation projects to add experience to the analysis carried out in class. Prerequisite: fluency in a language other than English.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 4080 Africanist Travel Writing: Texts, Contexts, Theory
Same as Comp Lit 1511
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 409 Correlation Between East and West
Extensive comparative study of a period, topic, theme or genre in Chinese or Japanese literature with a body of texts from one or more European languages that serve to illuminate the literary similarities and cultural differences between the two. Texts vary, depending upon the interests of the instructor(s). All texts available in English translations as well as in the original languages.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 409C Beyond Place: The Meaning of Place in the Middle East
This course considers the importance of place in the Middle East with particular reference to Jewish and Islamic traditions. Topics covered include the creation of holy sites, the concept of sacred space, the practice of pilgrimages, and the tropes of exile and return. Texts range from analytical essays to novels, memoirs and films by authors such as Edward Said, Naguib Mahfouz, Taher Ben Jelloun, Eilif Shafak, A.B. Yehoshua, Shulamit Hareven, and Hanan Al-Shaykh. Requirements include participation, short assignments, and a seminar paper. This course fulfills the capstone requirement for students majoring in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, but is open to advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Prerequisites: course work in JINES and senior standing or permission of instructor.

L16 Comp Lit 4111 Pastoral Literature
Same as IPH 4111
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 4118A Victorian Literature and Postcolonial Studies
Readings in such authors as Carlyle, Tennyson, Browning, Mill, Arnold and Pater.
Same as E Lit 418
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 419 Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory
This course is intended to acquaint students with basic ideas and issues raised by a diversity of voices in contemporary feminist and cultural theory. Readings cover a wide range of approaches and tendencies within feminism, among them: French feminism, Foucauldian analyses of gender and sexuality, lesbian and queer theories, Third World/postcolonial feminism, and feminism by women of color. Given that feminist theories developed in response to and in dialogue with wider sociopolitical, cultural and philosophical currents, the course explores feminist literary and cultural theory in an interdisciplinary context. Note: This course is in the core curriculum for the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies graduate certificate. Prerequisites: advanced course work in WGSS or in literary theory (300-level and above) or permission of the instructor required.
Same as WGSS 419
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 4204 Film Theory
This course is an introduction to both classical and contemporary film theory. Beginning with the earliest attempts to treat cinema as a new and unique art form, the course initially reviews the various ways in which film theory attempted to define cinema in terms of its most essential properties. The course then examines more contemporary developments within film theory, more specifically its attempt to incorporate the insights of other critical and analytical paradigms, such as semiotics, psychoanalysis, feminism, queer theory and postmodernism. Throughout the course, we consider questions regarding the ontology of cinema, its relation to spectators, and the various ways in which its formal properties create meaning. Readings for the course include the major works of Sergei Eisenstein, Andre Bazin, Christian Metz, Laura Mulvey and Fredric Jameson. Required screenings.
Same as Film 420
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S IQ: HUM, WI Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 4224 The 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair: German and Austrian Art Exhibited
The St. Louis World’s Fair of 1904 (The Louisiana Purchase Exposition) was one of the greatest events of its time. At the beginning of the course, we deal with the historical development that lead to the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and have a look at the grand dimensions of the World's Fair (connected with the Olympic Games). Of central importance are the Art Exhibits from Germany and Austria with their cultural-political implications. The German Emperor had a hand in selecting the German paintings to be sent to St. Louis, and his opposition against modern movements like Impressionism caused opposition in Germany. Austria was different. In their Art
L16 Comp Lit 424 Senior Seminar
Intensive study of a comparative topic in a seminar situation.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 4252 Seminar in Comparative Literature: Transatlantic Poetics
This seminar explores how the flow and circulation of artistic forms between Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean during the 20th century results in the creation and dissemination of radically innovative modes of artistic expression.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 425A Humanities by the Numbers
Every time Google guesses the next word we are about to type, Amazon recommends books we might like to read, or the iPhone’s “Siri” answers a question, they draw on the massive advances that have been made in the application of computational techniques to language over the last few years. However, can such technologies help us to read literary texts in new ways? If literature can be thought of as unusual and distinctive uses of language, to what extent can computational techniques that draw on statistical patterns and quantification assist us in literary analysis? This course juxtaposes the typically human scale of the close reading to the “inhuman” and massive scales at which computers can count, quantify and categorize texts. How can we translate what we as human readers care about in these literary works — the things that make them valuable, rather than things that are easy to count? What nuance is lost in this translation between “close” and “distant” readings and what insights are gained? While this class introduces students to basic statistical and computational techniques, no prior experience with technology is required.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 430 Narrative Theory
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 436 Seminar in Dramatic Theory
The course begins with Plato’s critique of mimesis and Aristotle’s defense, as we read The Poetics as a response to Plato. We take some of Aristotle’s basic concepts, such as mimesis, plot, character and thought, and attempt to apply them to drama up to the present day. We also consider fundamental elements of both the dramatic text and the dramatic production, such as space, time, dialogue, narrative devices and perspective. Brecht’s theory of “epic drama” forms the other conceptual pole in the course, opposing Aristotle. Besides these two theorists, other figures include Ben Jonson, Corneille, Dryden, Diderot, Schiller, Hegel, Zola, Artaud and Grotowski. The course, then, has both chronological and thematic axes. Three papers and one oral presentation.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH Art: HUM

Nouveau Pavilion they included secessionists (Hagenbund). The Wiener Werkstätten (Vienna’s Workshops) attracted a lot of attention. Different from the paintings, German Arts and Crafts represented avant-garde movements. We visit libraries, archives and museums in St. Louis that have World’s Fair holdings. The seminar is for advanced undergraduate students but beginning graduate students can take it with permission of the instructor.
Same as IAS 4224
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 444C Psychoanalysis and Its Literary Cultures
This course examines interactions between texts from the domains of literature and psychoanalysis. We read theory and literature side by side, in order to ask the following questions: Does the relationship between literary text and theory necessarily entail the subjection of literature to analysis, or can one, as Pierre Bayard asks, apply literature to psychoanalysis? What can psychoanalytic readings tell us more broadly about the act of reading? How can psychoanalysis enrich our sense of the ethical import of reading and writing, and how can literature challenge psychoanalytic goals and values? In terms of psychoanalytic authors, we focus on Freud, Lacan, Klein, Winnicott and Bayard. In terms of literature, we range widely from Sophocles to Henry James.
Same as IPH 444
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 449 Topics in Comparative Literature
Topics in Comparative Literature. Subject matter varies from semester to semester.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 450A Topics in the Humanities
This course examines the genre of historical fiction in both its “classic” phase and in its recent resurgence in contemporary literature. “Historical fiction” is, on the face of it, a paradox. The study of history requires evidence from primary sources, the evaluation of facts and testimony, and reference to actual persons and events. Fiction, on the other hand, is neither tied to the disciplinary restrictions and subjects of historical research nor to a particular time period. So what does history offer to fiction and fiction to history? Why do writers and readers keep returning to a form which for most of the 20th century, at least, fell out of favor with the advent of postmodern skepticism about the “real”? The course considers the importance of historical fiction in the development of the genre of the novel and its relation to the modern discovery of history itself. Among the works we read are Penelope Fitzgerald’s The Blue Flower, Edward P. Jones’s The Known World, Walter Scott’s Waverley, and Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities. We always bear in mind a practitioner’s perspective, and students have the option to respond to the literature in part through researching and writing their own historical fiction.
Same as IPH 450
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, WI A&S IQ: HUM, WI EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 453A Theories of Literary and Cultural Analysis
Same as German 453
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 455C Senior Colloquium
Same as IPH 455
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H
L16 Comp Lit 4561 Marxism After Marx: Philosophy and Radicalism in the 20th Century
As claims around the supposed “post-modernity” of our contemporary situation have ebbed, so scholars have returned once more to perhaps the defining philosophical and political voice of modernity, Karl Marx. This course prepares students to engage in current debates in the humanities over the nature of the political, the dynamics of class, the relative importance of the economy to “culture,” and the historical situatedness of philosophical knowledge, all through close readings of the Western Marxist philosophical tradition. That tradition, developing in Continental Europe and later the United States, sought to revitalize Marx’s account of historical development through attention to art, literature and the broader Western philosophical canon, often with the intention of accounting for the failures of Soviet Communism. The course begins with a condensed primer to Marx’s original ideas, before turning to the extension of Marxist philosophy in the ideas of Lenin, Lukács, the Frankfurt School, Louis Althusser, the British New Left, Lucio Colletti and Antonio Negri, before addressing more contemporary authors including Fredric Jameson and Alain Badiou.
Same as IPH 456
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 461A Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: The Routes and Horizons of Asian-American Literature
Same as E Lit 461
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 4647 Ancient Madness
In this course we ask what madness meant in Greek and Roman culture. We find reading strategies that are sensitive both to ancient evidence and to the ethical demands of talking about, evaluating and categorizing people treated as mad. While we concentrate on literary (particularly tragic and epic), philosophical and medical texts, we also look at visual representations and evidence from ritual and cult. An important part of our project involves tracing the afterlife of classical ideas. The history of melancholia grounds this aspect of the course. We then consider how antiquity informs psychoanalysis, and how ancient madness might partake in a critique of contemporary understandings of what it means to be mentally ill.
Same as Classics 4647
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L16 Comp Lit 471A Topics in Modern Arabic Literature
Modern Arabic narratives read in English translation foregrounding themes such as the conflict between tradition and modernity, civil war, poverty, alienation, religion and politics, and changing gender roles.
Same as Arab 471
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH

L16 Comp Lit 493 The Unmaking and Remaking of Europe: The Literature and History of the Great War of 1914–1918
Credit 3 units.

L16 Comp Lit 494 Seminar: Diverse Topics in Literature
This course may offer a variety of topics. Semester subtitle varies. It has been offered as an in-depth study of the individual through autobiographies; and as a course on visual poetics from antiquity to the present. See department for further details.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 495 Seminar
Seminar in Comparative Literature Studies. Topics vary. See Course Listings for current semester’s offering.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S IQ: HUM Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 497 Independent Work for Senior Honors
One or more long papers on a topic chosen in conjunction with the adviser and an examination. A committee determines whether the student receives credit only or Honors.
Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of chair of the committee.
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L16 Comp Lit 498 Independent Work for Senior Honors
Advanced work as indicated in Comp Lit 497. Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of chair of the committee.
Credit 3 units. Art: HUM