Comparative Literature
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
An Interdisciplinary Major

COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2017 COURSES

CPLT 113/ENG 103  Beyond Borders: Writers of Color Across the Globe
Instructor: Professor Ko (English Dept.)

SPRING 2018 COURSES

CPLT 180/ENG 180  What is World Literature?
Instructor: Professor Sides (English Dept.)

CPLT 200  Graphic Novel – Digital Texts
Instructor: Professor Nolden (German Studies)

CPLT 208/REL 208  Legend, Satire, and Satire, and Storytelling in Hebrew Bible
Instructor Professor Silver (Religion Dept.)

CPLT 275/375  Translation and the Multicultural World
Instructor: Professor Weiner (Russian Dept.)

CPLT 359/FREN 359  Calderwood Seminar for the Public Writing: You Say You Want to Change the World: Advocating for Other Cultures
Instructor: Professor Lydgate (French Dept.)
CPLT - Comparative Literature

CPLT 113-01-F - Studies in Fiction (1.0)
Topic for 2017-18: Beyond Borders: Writers of Color Across the Globe
This course takes a whirlwind tour of the world through the imaginative literature of writers of color across the world. Although each work will provide a distinct and exhilarating experience, a number of overlapping threads will connect the works in various ways: generational change and conflict amidst cross-cultural encounters; evolving ideas of love and identity; the persistence of suffering, among others. The syllabus will likely include the following works: Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart; Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude; Haruki Murakami’s Japanese love song to youth and the Beatles, Norwegian Wood; Marjane Satrapi’s graphic novel of an Iranian childhood, Persepolis; the Indian writer Arundhati Roy’s God of Small Things, and Min-Gyu Park’s contemporary novel about Korea, Pavane for a Dead Princess.

CPLT 180 - What is World Literature? (1.0)
"World Literature" views a literary work as the product of local culture, then of regional or national culture, and finally of global culture. Critics of world literature argue that a text’s richness may be lost in translation, that too often a privileged Western literary tradition forces “other” literatures into a relationship of belatedness and inferiority, and that world literature leads to the globalization of culture—and as the global language becomes predominantly English, the world of literature will be known through that single language alone. This course offers an opportunity to not only read rich and exciting literary texts from ancient eras to the contemporary moment but also after reading key critical essays that defend and critique “World Literature” to reflect on the cultural politics that directly or indirectly determines who reads what. Likely texts among others: The Homeric Hymn to Demeter; Ovid, Metamorphoses; Murasaki, The Tale of the Genji; Qu, The Lament; Poe, Tales; Dove, Mother Love; Akutagawa, Stories; Soyinka, Aké; Ma, Red Dust; Spivak, “Crossing Borders”; Saussy, “Exquisite Cadavers Stitched from Fresh Nightmares: Of Memes, Hives, and Selfish Genes”; Cao, “Cross-Civilization Variation Theory.”

CPLT 200 - Graphic Novel – Digital Texts (1.0)
Intrigued by the complex relationship between image and text, this course will survey major moments in the emergence of the graphic novel and in the development of digital texts in general. We will develop a vocabulary to analyze both the narrative and visual dimensions of the texts at hand to understand what it means to “read,” to “play,” or to interact with visual and computer-based texts. As a comparative literature course, the syllabus will include texts belonging to different literary traditions.

CPLT 208 - Legend, Satire, and Storytelling in the Hebrew Bible (1.0)
The art of narrative composition in the Hebrew Bible. The literary techniques and conventions of ancient Israelite authors in the Bible’s rich corpus of stories. Philosophical and aesthetic treatment of themes such as kingship, power, gender, and covenant. Primary focus on the role of narrative in the cultural life of ancient Israel, with attention also to the difficulties of interpreting biblical stories from within our contemporary milieu.
CPLT 275 - Translation and the Multilingual World (1.0)
A study of translation in theory and in practice, in its literal and metaphorical senses alike, and of the multilingual world in which translation takes place. Topics: translation of literary texts, translation of sacred texts, the history and politics of translation, the lives of translators, translation and gender, machine translation, adaptation as translation. Students taking the course at the 300 level will do a substantial independent project: a translation, a scholarly inquiry, a combination of the two.

CPLT 350 - Research or Individual Study (1.0)
Prerequisite: Permission of the director. Open to juniors and seniors.
Distribution: None
Term(s): Fall; Spring

CPLT 359 - Calderwood Seminar for Public Writing: You Say You Want to Change the World: Advocating for Other Cultures (in English) (1.0)
Your local school board is considering eliminating foreign language instruction at the high school. You think it’s a bad idea. How will you make your voice heard? This seminar will explore writing that challenges language majors to rethink and repurpose their academic knowledge, shaping it to contribute to public debates. Such writing may include op-eds and letters to the editor; book, film and music reviews; blogs; and interviews with notables in the field. Students will write weekly and revise their work in response to comments from the instructor and their peers. The presence of majors in different languages will introduce students to the assumptions; perspectives and approaches of other cultures, with the goal of helping participants become advocates for a wider, more inclusive cultural literacy.

CPLT 360 - Senior Thesis Research (1.0)
Prerequisite: Permission of the director.
Distribution: None
Term(s): Fall; Spring
Students enroll in Senior Thesis Research (360) in the first semester and carry out independent work under the supervision of a faculty member. If sufficient progress is made, students may continue with Senior Thesis (370) in the second semester.

CPLT 370 - Senior Thesis (1.0)
Prerequisite: CPLT 360 and permission of the department.
Distribution: None
Term(s): Fall; Spring
Students enroll in Senior Thesis Research (360) in the first semester and carry out independent work under the supervision of a faculty member. If sufficient progress is made, students may continue with Senior Thesis (370) in the second semester.

CPLT 375 - Translation and the Multilingual World (1.0)
A study of translation in theory and in practice, in its literal and metaphorical senses alike, and of the multilingual world in which translation takes place. Topics: translation of literary texts, translation of sacred texts, the history and politics of translation, the lives of translators, translation and gender, machine translation, adaptation as translation. Students taking the course at the 300 level will do a substantial independent project: a translation, a scholarly inquiry, a combination of the two.