COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
(COML)

COML 001 Approaches to Genre
The topic for Fall 2017: THE END IS COMING: APOCALYPSE IN FILM AND LIT From global pandemics to great floods, from nuclear wars to days of judgment, from climate collapse to universal heat death, our world has never freed itself from the threat of impending apocalypse. This perennial premonition, THE END IS COMING, is at once religious, political, rhetorical, environmental, historical, aesthetic, and personal—and so, against the backdrop of our perceived current crisis this course returns to endings that have gripped the cultural imagination from the Book of Revelation to Wall-E. It investigates the past, present, and future of the notion that we have no future, in an attempt to zero in on several significant questions. What drives our fascination with, our fear of, and even our desire for destruction? Does the sense of an ending condition our experience of the world, of art, of narrative, and of thought? And is it really the end of the world, or just the end of our world that obsesses us? To attempt answers, we will probe the definition of such terms as world, end, coming, desire, and "our" and will examine how literature and film ground the universal catastrophes they predict in specific places and times. Every generation has believed it was the last; our own no exception. Some dare to build the struts and rafters of a Jerusalem to come, some turn their heads away from the writing on the wall, and some dance as the palaces burn. We mean to investigate each, and to articulate our own responses to the end that comes again and again. Although no artist, author, or prophet that we have studied was able to shake their sense of the final, the course itself will not have one. But it will address those figures in depth. They include: Margaret Atwood, Stanley Kubrick, Sigmund Freud, John of Patmos, William Blake, Ovid, Lars Von Trier, Octavia Butler, William Shakespeare, Samuel Beckett, Boccaccio, Mary Shelley, Karl Marx, Mohammed, Donna Haraway, Frank Kermode, Cormac McCarthy, and Norman O. Brown. Taught by: Elliott/Knudson
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 001
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Communication within the Curriculum. This is a topics course. This seminar engages questions of literary genre, including its function as a mediating presence for thinking about audience, literary history, and the marketplace. The theme of the seminar will change with the instructor. Customarily this course will be affiliated with Communication within the Curriculum (CWIC), and so will have a speaking and presentation component to it.

COML 002 Approaches to Literary Studies
This is a topics course. Please see the Comp Lit website for additional information at: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/complit/
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 002
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Communication within the Curriculum. This is a topics course. This seminar engages questions of literary genre, including its function as a mediating presence for thinking about audience, literary history, and the marketplace. The theme of the seminar will change with the instructor. Customarily this course will be affiliated with Communication within the Curriculum (CWIC), and so will have a speaking and presentation component to it.

COML 011 Censored! A History of Book Censorship
Although its pages may appear innocuous enough, bound innocently between non-descript covers, the book has frequently become the locus of intense suspicion, legal legislation, and various cultural struggles. But what causes a book to blow its cover? In this course we will consider a range of specific censorship cases in the west since the invention of the printed book to the present day. We will consider the role of various censorship authorities (both religious and secular) and grapple with the timely question about whether censorship is ever justified in building a better society. Case studies will focus on many well-known figures (such as Martin Luther, John Milton, Voltaire, Benjamin Franklin, Goethe, Karl Marx, and Salman Rushdie) as well as lesser-known authors, particularly Anonymous (who may have chosen to conceal her identity to avoid pursuit by the Censor).
Taught by: Wiggin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 003
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Freshman Seminar. All readings and lectures in English. No knowledge of German is required.

COML 012 India's Literature: Love, War, Wisdom and Humor
This course introduces students to the extraordinary quality of literary production during the past four millennia of South Asian civilization. We will read texts in translation from all parts of South Asia up to the sixteenth century. We will read selections from hymns, lyric poems, epics, wisdom literature, plays, political works, and religious texts.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Patel
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 004
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 013 Introduction to Modern South Asian Literatures
This course provides an introduction to the literatures of South Asia - chiefly India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh - between 1500 and the present. We will read translated excerpts from literary texts in several languages - Braj, Persian, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Malayalam, and Tamil - and explore the relationship between these literary texts and their historical contexts. No prior knowledge of South Asia is required.
Taught by: Sreenivasan, R.
Also Offered As: SAST 007
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 014 Critical Speaking Seminar
Topics vary from semester to semester.
Also Offered As: NELC 008
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 015 Freshman Seminar
The primary goal of the freshman seminar program is to provide every freshman the opportunity for a direct personal encounter with a faculty member in a small setting devoted to a significant intellectual endeavor. Specific topics will be posted at the beginning of each academic year. Please see the College Freshman seminar website for information on current course offerings. Fulfills Arts and Letters sector requirement.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 016, MUSC 016
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 016 Topics in Literature
This course will explore various topics within the diverse landscape of literature with an emphasis on a particular theme or genre.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 015, ENGL 015, ENGL 016
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Freshman seminar.

COML 021 Medieval Literature and Culture
This course introduces students to four hundred years of English literary culture, from approximately 1100 to 1500. This period was marked by major transformations, not only with respect to government, law, religious practice, intellectual life, England's relation to the Continent (during the 100 Years War), the organization of society (especially after the Black Death), the circulation of literary texts, and the status of authors. Topics may include medieval women writers, manuscript production, literatures of revolt, courtly culture, Crusades, cross-Channel influences, and religious controversy.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 021
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 023 In Praise of the Small
We can memorize aphorisms and jokes, carry miniature portraits with us, and feel playful in handling small objects. This seminar will ask us to pay attention to smaller texts, art works, and objects that may easily be overlooked. In addition to reading brief texts and looking at images and objects, we will also read texts on the history and theory of short genres and the small.
Taught by: Weissberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 023
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Freshman seminar. All readings and lectures in English. No knowledge of German is required.

COML 031 Introduction to Renaissance Literature and Culture
This course will introduce you to some of the most exciting and vital issues and texts—historical, cultural, and literary—of Renaissance England. We will read a variety of men and women who take us into pre-modern worlds that are significantly different from our own, and yet help us understand our own modernity. Hence the readings will range from Shakespeare's plays or Donne's poems to a speech by Queen Elizabeth's or Columbus's letter announcing the "discovery" of the Americas. We will try to understand the fashioning of various identities—such as those of gentleman, lady, monarch or subject—at this time. We will trace the changing meanings of gender, the family, love, authority, the nation and race. And most importantly, we will see how literary texts contribute to these meanings in their own distinctive ways.
Taught by: Loomba
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 031
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 052 Books that Made History
It is often said that books reflect the society in which they were written. Yet many books—and their authors—shaped society, and changed how people understood the world around them. In this course we will focus on a variety of texts from the world of Rome to 1600, the era in which European society took form. In each case, we will seek not only to understand the work itself, but also how it affected the lives and the thought of its readers. Works will range from Cicero and the Biblical New Testament to Luther and Machiavelli.
Taught by: Moyer
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 053, MUSC 051
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 053 Music of Africa
African Contemporary Music: North, South, East, and West. Come to know contemporary Africa through the sounds of its music: from South African kwela, jazz, marabi, and kwaito to Zimbabwean chimurenga; Central African soukous and pygmy pop; West African fuji, and North African rai and hophop. Through reading and listening to live performance, audio and video recordings, we will examine the music of Africa and its intersections with politics, history, gender, and religion in the colonial and post-colonial era.
Taught by: Muller
Also Offered As: AFST 053, MUSC 051
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 055 19th-Century Novel
During the nineteenth century the novel became the dominant literary form of its day, supplanting poetry and drama on both sides of the Atlantic. In this introduction to the novelists of the period, we will read the writers who secured the novel's cultural respectability and economic prominence. Likely authors will include Austen, the Brontes, Collins, Dickens, Eliot, Hardy, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Thackeray, Scott, and Stowe. The course will explore the themes, techniques, and styles of the nineteenth-century novel. It will focus not only on the large structural and thematic patterns and problems within each novel but also on the act of reading as a historically specific cultural ritual in itself.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ENGL 055, GSWS 055
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 056 Seeing/Hearing South Africa: Politics and History through Contemporary Performance
Students engage with South African performance and political history; the history of the festival in Grahamstown; and listen closely to the history of South African jazz; they are given guidelines for writing about live performances; students discuss program choices; and spend some time talking about travel to South Africa and the lived experience of two weeks at the National Arts Festival. Everyone travels to the National Arts Festival in late June and spends two weeks attending live performances (4-6 per day), blogging on the performances, discussing these experiences with the Professor and fellow students; we visit a game park and do a “township tour” as part of the two weeks in the Eastern Cape. On returning home, students have about 4 weeks to write a substantial paper on the festival experience. While this is primarily a music class, the National Arts Festival includes all kinds of performances—theater, music, dance, and visual arts, of all kinds. This is two weeks of total immersion in the arts, and thinking deeply about the place of the arts in contemporary arts and society.
Taught by: Muller
Also Offered As: AFRC 056, AFST 056, MUSC 056
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 059 Modernisms and Modernities
This class explores the international emergence of modernism, typically from the middle of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century. We will examine the links between modernity, the avant-garde, and various national modernisms that emerged alongside them. Resolutely transatlantic and open to French, Spanish, Italian, German, or Russian influences, this course assumes the very concept of Modernism to necessitate an international perspective focusing on the new in literature and the arts -- including film, the theatre, music, and the visual arts. The philosophies of modernism will also be surveyed and concise introductions provided to important thinkers like Marx, Nietzsche, Sorel, Bergson, Freud, and Benjamin.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 059
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 062 20th-Century Poetry
From abstraction to beat, from socialism to negritude, from expressionism to ecopoetry, from surrealism to visual poetry, from collage to digital poetry, the poetry of the twentieth century has been characterized by both the varieties of its forms and the range of its practitioners. This course will offer a broad overview of many of the major trends and a few minor eddies in the immensely rich, wonderfully varied, ideologically and aesthetically charged field. The course will cover many of the radical poetry movements and individual innovations, along with the more conventional and idiosyncratic work, and will provide examples of political, social, ethnic, and national poeies, both in the Americas and Europe, and beyond to the rest of the world. While most of the poetry covered will be in English, works in translation, and indeed the art of translation, will be an essential component the course.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 062
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 065 20th-Century British Novel
This course traces the development of the novel across the twentieth-century. The course will consider the formal innovations of the modern novel (challenges to realism, stream of consciousness, fragmentation, etc.) in relation to major historical shifts in the period. Authors treated might include: Conrad, Lawrence, Joyce, Forster, Woolf, Cather, Faulkner, Hemingway, Achebe, Greene, Rhys, Baldwin, Naipaul, Pynchon, Rushdie, and Morrison.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 065, ENGL 065
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 069 Poetry and Poetics
What is poetry and what place does it have among literary forms? What is its relation to culture, history, and our sense of speakers and audiences? This course will focus on various problems in poetic practice and theory, ranging from ancient theories of poetry in Plato and Aristotle to contemporary problems in poetics. In some semesters a particular school of poets may be the focus; in others a historical issue of literary transmission, or a problem of poetic genres, such as lyric, narrative, and dramatic poetry, may be emphasized. The course will provide a basic knowledge of scansion in English with some sense of the historical development of metrics. This course is a good foundation for those who want to continue to study poetry in literary history and for creative writers concentrating on poetry.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 069
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 074 Science and Literature
This course will explore the emergence of modern science fiction as a genre, the ways it has reflected our evolving conceptions of ourselves and the universe, and its role as the mythology of modern technological civilization. We will discuss such characteristic themes as utopias, the exploration of space and time, biological engineering, superman, robots, aliens, and other worlds—and the differences between European and American treatment of these themes.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 075, HIST 117, HSOC 110, STSC 110
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 090 Women and Literature
This course will focus on questions of gender difference and of sexual desire in a range of literary works, paying special attention to works by women and treatments of same-sex desire. More fundamentally, the course will introduce students to questions about the relation between identity and representation. We will attend in particular to intersections between gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation, and will choose from a rich vein of authors: Mary Wollstonecraft, Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, Lord Byron, the Brontes, Christina Rossetti, George Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, Zora Neale Hurston, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Nella Larsen, Radclyffe Hall, Willa Cather, Elizabeth Bishop, Jean Rhys, James Baldwin, Sylvia Plath, Bessie Head, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Cherr�e Moraga, Toni Morrison, Michael Cunningham, Dorothy Allison, Jeanette Winterson, and Leslie Feinberg.

One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 090, GSWS 090
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. If the topic is "Gender, Sexualitiy, and Literature," the following description applies.

COML 093 Introduction to Postcolonial Literature
English is a global language with a distinctly imperial history, and this course serves as an essential introduction to literary works produced in or about the former European colonies. The focus will be poetry, film, fiction and non fiction and at least two geographic areas spanning the Americas, South Asia, the Caribbean and Africa as they reflect the impact of colonial rule on the cultural representations of identity, nationalism, race, class and gender.

Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 093, LALS 093
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 094 Introduction to Literary Theory
This course introduces students to major issues in the history of literary theory. Treating the work of Plato and Aristotle as well as contemporary criticism, we will consider the fundamental issues that arise from representation, making meaning, appropriation and adaptation, categorization and genre, historicity and genealogy, and historicity and temporality. We will consider major movements in the history of theory including the "New" Criticism of the 1920s and 30s, structuralism and post-structuralism, Marxism and psychoanalysis, feminism, cultural studies, critical race theory, and queer theory.

Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 094, GRMN 279
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 100 Introduction to Literary Study
Literature does not exist for your protection. So dangerous is it, that Socrates argued poets ought to be banned from his ideal Republic. And Socrates himself—one of the most subversive of all poetic thinkers—was condemned to death for corrupting the young with his speeches. All great literature is unsettling and alarming. Along with its beauty and delicacy and rhetorical power and ethical force, it can be terrifyingly sublime and even downright ugly: full of contempt and horror and grandiosity and malice. From Socrates’ day to our own, countless writers have been jailed, exiled, and murdered, their works censored, banned, burned, for daring to say what others wish would remain unsaid—about religion and the State; sexuality, gender, and the body; art, science, and commerce; freedom and order; love and hate—and for saying it in ways that are aesthetically innovative, surprising, seductive, ravishingly unanticipated.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 100, RUSS 195
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 101 Introduction to Folklore
The purpose of the course is to introduce you to the subjects of the discipline of Folklore, their occurrence in social life and the scholarly analysis of their use in culture. As a discipline folklore explores the manifestations of expressive forms in both traditional and modern societies, in small-scale groups where people interace with each face-to-face, and in large-scale, often industrial societies, in which the themes, symbols, and forms that permeate traditional life, occupy new positions, or occur in different occasions in everyday life. For some of you the distinction between low and high culture, or artistic and popular art will be helpful in placing folklore forms in modern societies. For others, these distinction will not be helpful. In traditional societies, and within social groups that define themselves ethnically, professionally, or culturally, within modern heterogeneous societies, and traditional societies in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia, folklore plays a more prominent role in society, than it appears to plan in literate cultures on the same continents. Consequently the study of folklore and the analysis of its forms are appropriate in traditional as well as modern societies and any society that is in a transitional phase.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Ben-Amos
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 101, NELC 181, RELS 108
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 104 Study of a Period
This is an introduction to literary study through a survey of works from a specific historical period—often the 20th century, but some versions of this course will focus on other times. We will explore the period’s important artistic movements, ideas, and authors, focusing on interconnectedness of the arts to other aspects of culture.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 104, ENGL 104
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 106 Topics in Literature and Society
While the topic of this course varies from semester, its subject is always the relation between literature and socio-economic realities: political, economic, social, and of identity. Past versions of English 105 have included "The World of Work," "Disability Narratives," and "Conflict in Print." Each devotes a number of weeks to the economic and social theories underlying its given subject in order to provide students with adequate background.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 105, GSWS 105
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. The topic varies from year to year.

COML 107 Topics: Freshman Seminars
This is a topics course. Topics vary each year. The topic of Spring 2016 will be WOMEIN IN ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CINEMA.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 014, ITAL 100
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. The topic varies from year to year.

COML 108 Greek and Roman Mythology
Myths are traditional stories that have endured many years. Some of them have to do with events of great importance, such as the founding of a nation. Others tell the stories of great heroes and heroines and their exploits and courage in the face of adversity. Still others are simple tales about otherwise unremarkable people who get into trouble or do some great deed. What are we to make of all these tales, and why do people seem to like to hear them? This course will focus on the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as a few contemporary American ones, as a way of exploring the nature of myth and the function it plays for individuals, societies, and nations. We will also pay some attention to the way the Greeks and Romans themselves understood their own myths. Are myths subtle codes that contain some universal truth? Are they a window on the deep recesses of a particular culture? Are they entertaining stories that people like to tell over and over? Are they a set of blinders that all of us wear, though we do not realize it? Investigate these questions through a variety of topics creation of the universe between gods and mortals, religion and family, sex, love, madness, and death.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Struck
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 100
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 110 Theatre, History, Culture I, Classical Athens to Elizabethan London
This course will explore the forms of public performance, most specifically theatre, as they emerge from and give dramatic shape to the dynamic life of communal, civic and social bodies, from their anthropological origins in ritual and religious ceremonies, to the rise of great urban centers, to the closing of the theaters in London in 1642. This course will focus on the development of theatre practice in both Western and non-Western cultures intersects with the history of cities, the rise of market economies, and the emerging forces of national identity. In addition to examining the history of performance practices, theatre architecture, scenic conventions and acting methods, this course will investigate, where appropriate, social and political history, the arts, civic ceremonies and the dramaturgic structures of urban living.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 087
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Arts and Letters Distributional Requirement

COML 111 Theatre, History, Culture II
This course examines theatre and performance in the context of the broader urban, artistic and political cultures housing them from the Renaissance to the mid-19th century. Encompassing multiple cultures and traditions, it will draw on a variety of readings and viewings designed to locate the play, playwright, trend or concept under discussion within a specific socio-historical context. The evolution of written and performed drama, theatre architecture, and scenography will be examined in tandem with the evolution of various nationalisms, population shifts, and other commercial and material forces on theatrical entertainments. Readings consequently will be drawn not only from plays and other contemporary documents, but also from selected works on the history, theory, design, technology, art, politics or society of the period under discussion.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 097, THAR 102
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 115 Experimental Writing Seminar
It's clear that long-cherished notions of creativity are under attack, eroded by file-sharing, media culture, widespread sampling, and digital replication. How does writing respond to this environment? This workshop will rise to that challenge by employing strategies of appropriation, replication, plagiarism, piracy, sampling, plundering, as compositional methods. Along the way, we'll trace the rich history of forgery, frauds, hoaxes, avatars, and impersonations spanning the arts, with a particular emphasis on how they employ language. We'll see how the modernist notions of change, procedure, repetition, and the aesthetics of boredom dovetail with popular culture to usurp conventional notions of time, place, and identity, all as expressed linguistically.
Taught by: Bernstein
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 111
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Students wishing to take this course must submit a writing sample as part of the selection process. May be repeated for credit with a different instructor.
COML 116 Introduction to Film Theory
This course offers students an introduction to the major texts in film theory across the 20th and 21st centuries. The course gives students an opportunity to read these central texts closely, to understand the range of historical contexts in which film theories are developed, to explore the relationship between film theory and the major film movements, to grapple with the points of contention that have emerged among theorists, and finally to consider: what is the status of film theory today? This course is required for all Cinema Studies majors, but is open to all students, and no prior knowledge of film theory is assumed.
Requirements: Close reading of all assigned texts; attendance and participation in section discussions; 1 midterm exam; 1 take-home final exam.
Also Offered As: ENGL 095
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 118 Poetics of Screenwriting
This course studies scriptwriting in a historical, theoretical and artistic perspective. We discuss the rules of drama and dialogue, character development, stage vs. screen-writing, adaptation of nondramatic works, remodeling of plots, author vs. genre theory of cinema, storytelling in silent and sound films, the evolution of a script in the production process, script doctoring, as well as screenwriting techniques and tools. Coursework involves both analytical and creative tasks.
Taught by: Todorov
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 111, RUSS 111
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 119 The Novel
An introduction to literary study through a genre, either the short story or poetry. Versions of this course will vary widely in the selection of texts assigned. Some versions will begin with traditional stories or poems, including a sampling of works in translation. Others will focus exclusively on modern and contemporary American short fiction or poetry. This course is designed for the General Requirement, and is ideal for the students wishing to take an English course but not necessarily intending to major.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 103
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 120 Iranian Cinema: Gender, Politics, Religion
This seminar explores Iranian culture, society, history and politics through the medium of film. We will examine a variety of cinematic works that represent the social, political, economic and cultural circumstances of contemporary Iran, as well as the diaspora. Along the way, we will discuss issues pertaining to gender, religion, nationalism, ethnicity, and the role of cinema in Iranian society and beyond. Discussions topics will also include the place of the Iranian diaspora in cinema, as well as the transnational production, distribution, and consumption of Iranian cinema. Films will include those by internationally acclaimed filmmakers, such as Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Asghar Farhadi, Bahman Ghabadi, Abbas Kiarostami, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Dariush Mehrjui, Tahmineh Milani, Jafar Panahi, Marjane Satrapi and others. All films will be subtitled in English.
No prior knowledge is required.
Taught by: Entezari
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: NELC 118
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 121 Working with Translation
In this class we will study and translate some of the major figures in 20th century poetry, including Rainer Maria Rilke, Claire Malroux, Pablo Neruda, Cesare Pavese, Anna Akhmatova, and Bei Dao. While the curriculum will be tailored to the interests and linguistic backgrounds of the students who enroll, all those curious about world poetry and the formidable, irresistible act of translation are welcome. Students should have at least an intermediate knowledge of a language other than English. We will study multiple translations of seminal poems, render our own versions in response, and have the additional opportunity to work directly from the original. Students may also work in pairs, or groups. A portion of the course will be set up as a creative writing workshop in which to examine the overall effect of each others’ translations so that first drafts can become successful revisions. While class discussions will explore the contexts and particularity of (among others) Urdu, Italian, French, and Polish poetry, they might ultimately reveal how notions of national literature have radically shifted in recent years to more polyglottic and globally textured forms. Through guest speakers, essays on translation theory, and our own ongoing experiments, this course will celebrate the ways in which great poetry underscores the fact that language itself is a translation. In addition to the creative work, assignments will include an oral presentation, informal response papers, and a short final essay.
Taught by: Silverman, Taije
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 120
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 125 Narrative Across Cultures
The purpose of this course is to present a variety of narrative genres and to discuss and illustrate the modes whereby they can be analyzed. We will be looking at shorter types of narrative: short stories, novellas, and fables, and also some extracts from longer works such as autobiographies. While some works will come from the Anglo-American tradition, a larger number will be selected from European and non-Western cultural traditions and from earlier time-periods. The course will thus offer ample opportunity for the exploration of the translation of cultural values in a comparative perspective.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 103, FOLK 125, NELC 180, SAST 124
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 126 Fantastic & Uncanny in Literature: Ghosts, Spirits and Machines
Do we still believe in spirits and ghosts? Do they have any place in an age of science of technology? Can they perhaps help us to define what a human being is and what it can do? We will venture on a journey through literary texts from the late eighteenth century to the present to explore the uncanny and fantastic in literature and Our discussions will be based on a reading of Sigmund Freud’s essay on the uncanny, and extraordinary Romantic narratives by Ludwig Tieck, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Prosper For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector Taught by: Weissberg Course usually offered in fall term Also Offered As: GRMN 242 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

COML 127 The Adultery Novel
The object of this course is to analyze narratives of adultery from Shakespeare to the present and to develop a vocabulary for thinking critically about the literary conventions and social values that inform them. Many of the themes (of desire, transgression, suspicion, discovery) at the heart of these stories also lie at the core of many modern narratives. Is there anything special, we will ask, about the case of adultery—once called “a crime which contains within itself all others”? What might these stories teach us about the way we read in general? By supplementing classic literary accounts by Shakespeare, Pushkin, Flaubert, Chekhov, and Proust with films and with critical analyses, we will analyze the possibilities and limitations of the different genres and forms under discussion, including novels, films, short stories, and theatre. What can these forms show us (or not show us) about desire, gender, family and social obligation? Through supplementary readings and class discussions, we will apply a range of critical approaches to place these narratives of adultery in a social and literary context, including formal analyses of narrative and style, feminist criticism, Marxist and sociological analyses of the family, and psychoanalytic understandings of desire and family life. For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector One-term course offered either term Also Offered As: CIMS 125, GSWS 125, RUSS 125 Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit Notes: All readings and discussions in English

COML 128 The Diary
Diary writing is an intimate mode of expression in which individuals seek to find meaning in their personal lives and relations, responding to the external realities in which they live. Their coping is subjected to their historical, educational and social contexts, and to the generic conventions of diary writing. This course examines the diary as a genre, exploring its functions, meanings, forms and conventions, comparing it with fictive and non-fictive autobiographical writings such as the diary novel, autobiography and the memoir, as well as comparative gender diary-writing. Taught by: Ben-Amos, B Course not offered every year Also Offered As: ENGL 076, GSWS 128 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

COML 140 Topics in Modernism
This course explores an aspect of literary modernism intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year. Past offerings have included seminars on the avant-garde, on the politics of modernism, and on its role in shaping poetry, music, and the visual arts. One-term course offered every term Also Offered As: ENGL 259, GRMN 249 Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit Notes: Critical Speaking

COML 141 Scandalous Arts in Ancient and Modern Communities
What do the ancient Greek comedian Aristophanes, the Roman satirist Juvenal, have in common with Snoop Dogg and Eminem? Many things, in fact, but perhaps the most fundamental is that they are all united by a stance that constantly threatens to offend prevailing social norms, whether through obscenity, violence or misogyny. This course will examine our conceptions of art (including literary, visual and musical media) that are deemed by certain communities to transgress the boundaries of taste and convention. It juxtaposes modern notions of artistic transgression, and the criteria used to evaluate such material, with the production of and discourse about transgressive art in classical antiquity. Students will consider, among other things, why communities feel compelled to repudiate some forms of art, while others into classics.” For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S Taught by: Rosen Course not offered every year Also Offered As: CLST 140 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

COML 143 Foundations Euro Thought
Also Offered As: HIST 143 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

COML 148 Slavery and Serfdom
During the Cold War, the United States and Russia were locked in an ideological battle, as capitalist and communist superpowers, over the question of private property. So how did these two countries approach the most important question regarding property that ever faced human civilization: how could governments justify the treatment of its subjects, people, as property? In 1862, Russia abolished serfdom, a form of human bondage that had existed in its territories since the 11th century. Just a year later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring America’s slaves then, thenceforward, and forever free. What forces, both domestic and international, both political and cultural, influenced this near simultaneous awakening in which huge swaths of the Russian and U.S. populations were liberated? While scholars have often sought to compare slavery and serfdom as institutions, this course does not attempt to draw connections between the two. Rather, we will focus on how the slavery/anti-slavery and serfdom/anti-serfdom debates were framed in each respective country as well as how Russia used American slavery and the U.S. used Russian serfdom to shape their own domestic debates. Taught by: Wilson Course not offered every year Also Offered As: AFRC 148, RUSS 149 Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit
COML 150 War and Representation in Russia, Europe and the U.S.
Representations of war have been created for as many reasons as wars are fought: to legitimate conflict, to celebrate military glory, to critique brutality, to vilify an enemy, to mobilize popular support, to generate national pride, etc. In this course we will examine a series of representations of war drawn from the literature, film, state propaganda, memoirs, visual art, etc. of Russia, Europe and the United States of the twentieth century.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RUSS 193
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 151 Water Worlds: Cultural Responses to Sea Level Rise & Catastrophic Flooding
As a result of climate change, the world that will take shape in the course of this century will be decidedly more inundated with water than we’re accustomed to. The polar ice caps are melting, glaciers are retreating, ocean levels are rising, polar bear habitat is disappearing, countries are jockeying for control over a new Arctic passage, while low-lying cities and small island nations are confronting the possibility of their own demise. Catastrophic flooding events are increasing in frequency, as are extreme droughts. Hurricane-related storm surges, tsunamis, and raging rivers have devastated regions on a local and global scale. In this seminar we will turn to the narratives and images that the human imagination has produced in response to the experience of overwhelming watery invasion, from Noah to New Orleans. Objects of analysis will include mythology, ancient and early modern diluvialism, literature, art, film, and commemorative practice. The basic question we’ll be asking is: What can we learn from the humanities that will be helpful for confronting the problems and challenges caused by climate change and sea level rise?
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Richter
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENV 150, GRMN 150
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 163 Empire and Popular Culture: India and the Metropole
This course will explore the everyday experiences of the empire of those who were located physically in the "metropolitan home". Beyond the politics and economics of the empire, this course studies the impact of the empire on the everyday lives of the British in the imperial age. Structured around how a Briton living in the 'home' might come to experience the empire through his/her encounters with the diverse cultural images and artefacts that were circulating since the turn of the nineteenth century, this course will specifically look at how these popular images of the Indian empire came to be informed by and in turn helped inform-the shifting imperial notions of masculinity, sexuality, class, race and even spirituality.
Taught by: Mukharji
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 227
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 191 World Literature
This course will introduce students to a wide array of literary works from across the world. It operates on the assumption that cultures have never been isolated from each other and that literature has always been in motion across national boundaries; it has been translated, adapted, and circulated. We will explore the genres, forms, and thematic preoccupations of major works that strive to imagine a wider world, while also studying the critical debates around the concept of world literature, from its origins with Goethe's essay on Weltliteratur to contemporary arguments about cosmopolitanism and globalization.
Taught by: Premoli/Irele
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CLST 191, ENGL 277
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 192 Classics of the World II
This class provides a survey of works drawn from the Western literary canon from the Renaissance to the 20th century. Work may be drawn in part from the following authors: Montaigne, Shakespeare, Webster, Moliere, Milton, Behn, Laclos, Rousseau, Sterne, the Romantic poets, Austen, Dickens, Bronte, Wilde, Woolf and Joyce.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 193 Great Story Collections
This course is intended for those with no prior background in folklore or knowledge of various cultures. Texts range in age from the first century to the twentieth, and geographically from the Middle East to Europe to the United States. Each collection displays various techniques of collecting folk materials and making them concrete. Each in its own way also raises different issues of genre, legitimacy, canon formation, cultural values and context.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Azzolina
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 099, FOLK 241
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 197 Madness and Madmen in Russian Culture
This course will explore the theme of madness in Russian literature and arts from the medieval period through the October Revolution of 1917. The discussion will include formative masterpieces by Russian writers (Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Bulgakov), painters (Repin, Vrubel, Filonov), composers (Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky), and film-directors (Protazanov, Eisenstein), as well as non-fictional documents such as Russian medical, judicial, political, and philosophical treatises and essays on madness.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 197
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 201 Topics Film History
This is a topics course. Please check each semester for the topic on the Comparative Literature website: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 290, CIMS 201, ENGL 291
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 203 Masterpieces-Italian Literature
Readings and reflections on significant texts of the Italian literary and artistic tradition exploring a wide range of genres, themes, cultural debates by analyzing texts in sociopolitical contexts. Readings and discussions in Italian.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: COLL 228, ITAL 203
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 204 Tolstoy
This course consists of three parts. The first, How to read Tolstoy? deals with Tolstoy's artistic stimuli, favorite devices, and narrative strategies. The second, Tolstoy at War, explores the authors provocative visions of war, gender, sex, art, social institutions, death, and religion. The emphasis is placed here on the role of a written word in Tolstoy's search for truth and power. The third and the largest section is a close reading of Tolstoy's masterpiece The War and Peace (1863-68) a quintessence of both his artistic method and philosophical insights.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 202
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Ben Franklin Seminar

COML 205 The Religious Other
Course explores attitudes toward monotheists of other faiths, and claims made about these "religious Others" in real and imagined encounters between Jews, Christians and Muslims from antiquity to the present. Strategies of "othering" will be analyzed through an exploration of claims about the Other's body, habits and beliefs, as found in works of scripture, law, theology, polemics, art, literature and reportage. Attention will be paid to myths about the other, inter-group violence, converts, cases of cross-cultural influence, notions of toleration, and perceptions of Others in contemporary life. Primary sources will be provided in English.
Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: JWST 213, NELC 383, RELS 203
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 209 Sustainability & Utopianism
This seminar explores how the humanities can contribute to discussions of sustainability. We begin by investigating the contested term itself, paying close attention to critics and activists who deplore the very idea that we should try to sustain our, in their eyes, dystopian present, one marked by environmental catastrophe as well as by an assault on the educational ideals long embodied in the humanities. We then turn to classic humanist texts on utopia, beginning with More's fictive island of 1517. The "origins of environmentalism" lie in such depictions of island edens (Richard Grove), and our course proceeds to analyze classic utopian tests from American, English, and German literatures. Readings extend to utopian visions from Europe and America of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as literary and visual texts that deal with contemporary nuclear and flood catastrophes. Authors include: Bill McKibben, Jill Kerr Conway, Christopher Newfield, Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Karl Marx, Henry David Thoreau, Robert Owens, William Morris, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Ayn Rand, Christa Wolf, and others.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Wiggin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 239
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 212 Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation
The Middle East boasts a rich tapestry of cultures that have developed a vibrant body of modern literature that is often overlooked in media coverage of the region. While each of the modern literary traditions that will be surveyed in this introductory course-Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish-will be analyzed with an appreciation of the cultural context unique to each body of literature, this course will also attempt to bridge these diverse traditions by analyzing common themes-such as modernity, social values, the individual and national identity-as reflected in the genres of poetry, the novel and the short story. This course is in seminar format to encourage lively discussion and is team-taught by four professors whose expertise in modern Middle Eastern literature serves to create a deeper understanding and aesthetic appreciation of each literary tradition. In addition to honing students' literary analysis skills, the course will enable students to become more adept at discussing the social and political forces that are reflected in Middle Eastern literature, explore important themes and actively engage in reading new Middle Eastern works on their own in translation. All readings are in English.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: NELC 201
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 213 Saints and Devils in Russian Literature
This course is about Russian literary imagination, which is populated with saints and devils, believers and religious rebels, holy men and sinners. In Russia, where people’s frame of mind had been formed by a mix of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and earlier pagan beliefs, the quest for faith, spirituality, and the meaning of life has invariably been connected with religious matters. How can one find the right path in life? Is humility the way to salvation? Should one live for God or for the people? Does God even exist?
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Verkhолантsev
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 218, RUSS 213
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 215 Arabic Literary Heritage
This course provides a survey of the genres and major figures in Arabic literary history from the 6th century up to the present day. Selections will be read in translation after a general introduction to the cultural background and a session devoted to the Qur’an and its influence, a sequence of sessions will be devoted to poetry, narratives, drama, and criticism. Each set of texts is accompanied by a collection of background readings which place the authors and works into a literary, political and societal context. This course thus attempts to place the phenomenon of “literature” into the larger context of Islamic studies by illustrating the links between Arab litterateurs and other contributors to the development of an Islamic/Arab culture on the one hand and by establishing connections between the Arabic literary tradition and that of other (and particularly Western) traditions.
Taught by: Fakhreddine
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: NELC 233
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 216 CU in India: Topics Course
C.U. in India is a hybrid, domestic/overseas course series which provides students with the opportunity to have an applied learning and cultural experience in India. The 2-CU course requires: 1) 15 classroom hours at Penn in the Fall term 2) A 12-Day trip to India with the instructor during the winter break to visit key sites and conduct original research (sites vary) 3) 15 classroom hours at Penn in the Spring term and 4) A research paper, due at the end of the spring term. Course enrollment is restricted to students admitted to the program. For more information, and the program application, go to http://sites.sas.upenn.edu/cuinindia
Two terms. student must enter first term.
Also Offered As: SAST 217
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 218 Perspectives in French Literature
This basic course in literature provides an overview of French literature and acquaints students with major literary trends through the study of representative works from each period. Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion in French. French 231 has as its theme the presentation of love and passion in French literature. Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: COLL 221, FREN 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 219 Perspectives in French Literature: The Individual and Society
This basic course in literature provides an overview of French literature and acquaints students with major literary trends through the study of representative works from each period. Special emphasis is placed on close reading of texts in order to familiarize students with major authors and their characteristics and with methods of interpretation. Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion in French. French 232 has as its theme the Individual and Society.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: COLL 221, FREN 232
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 220 Russia and the West
This course will explore the representations of the West in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russian literature and philosophy. We will consider the Russian visions of various events and aspects of Western political and social life - Revolutions, educational system, public executions, resorts, etc. - within the context of Russian intellectual history. We will examine how images of the West reflect Russia's own cultural concerns, anticipations, and biases, as well as aesthetic preoccupations and interests of Russian writers. The discussion will include literary works by Karamzin, Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Leskov, and Tolstoy, as well as non-fictional documents, such as travelers’ letters, diaries, and historiosophical treatises of Russian Freemasons, Romantic and Positivist thinkers, and Russian social philosophers of the late nineteenth century. A basic knowledge of nineteenth-century European history is desirable. The class will consist of lectures, discussions, short writing assignments, and two in-class tests.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 220, RUSS 220
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 221 Topics in Medieval Literature
This seminar explores an aspect of medieval literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year. Topics in the past have included the medieval performance, medieval women, and medieval law and literature. Please see the Comparative Literature website each semester for the topic: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 221
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 222 Topics In Romance
This seminar explores an aspect of epic or romance intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 222, GWSW 221
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 224 African Epic: Performance and Power
Homeric Iliad and Odyssey from ancient Greece and Song of Roland from medieval France are familiar landmarks in world literature. In contrast, Sunjata Epic of Mali, Mwindo Epic of Congo and more than twenty-five other heroic narrative poems throughout Africa are less known but equally valuable for accessing ancient wisdom, exploits of heroes and heroines, cultural values, knowledge systems, and supernatural realms. An additional benefit of studying African epic is that they are performed today or in living memory, so the cultural, performative, and social contexts are not obscured by centuries. These living traditions give us opportunities to more fully understand bard's roles, interaction of bard and audience, transformation from oral to written representation, and the extension of epic themes into other aspects of social life.

Taught by: Blakely
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 228
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 226 Hindi Nation and its Fragments
This course will trace the formation and contestation of a Hindi national public during the colonial and post-colonial periods, utilizing the post-colonial critical thought of writers in English like Partha Chatterjee, Gayatri Spivak, and Aijaz Ahmad, but also of critics writing in Hindi like Namvar Singh, Ashok Vajpevi, Rajendra Yadav, etc. Attention will be given to this manner in which the contours and character of this imagined community have been debated in the context of different literary, social, and political movements, with particular emphases given to aspects of gender, caste, and regional identity. Central to class discussions will be the question of what constitutes a language literature, and consequently what relation those concepts can have to nation in a multilingual state such as India. Readings will be in translation.

Taught by: Williams
One-term course offered every term
Also Offered As: COML 535, SAST 227, SAST 527
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 228 Studies in Hebrew Bible
This course introduces students to the methods and resources used in the modern study of the Bible. To the extent possible, these methods will be illustrated as they apply to a single book of the Hebrew Bible that will serve as the main focus of the course.

One-term course offered every term
Also Offered As: HEBR 250, JWST 256, RELS 220
Prerequisite: HEBR 154 or the equivalent
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 233 Censored! The Book and Censorship since Gutenberg
Although its pages may appear innocuous enough, bound innocently between non-descript covers, the book has frequently become the locus of intense suspicion, legal legislation, and various cultural struggles. But what causes a book to blow its cover? In this course we will consider a range of specific censorship cases in the west since the invention of the printed book to the present day. We will consider the role of various censorship authorities (both religious and secular) and grapple with the timely question about whether censorship is ever justified in building a better society. Case studies will focus on many well-known figures (such as Martin Luther, John Milton, Voltaire, Benjamin Franklin, Goethe, Karl Marx, and Salman Rushdie) as well as lesser-known authors, particularly Anonymous (who may have chosen to conceal her identity to avoid pursuit by the Censor).

Taught by: Wiggin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 233
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 234 The World of Dante
Dante's masterpiece in context of 14th century culture. Selected cantos will connect with such topics as books and readers in the manuscript era, life in society dominated by the Catholic church (sinners vs. saints, Christian pilgrimage routes, the great Franciscan and Dominican orders), Dante's politics as a Florentine exile (power struggles between Pope and Emperor), hi classical and Biblical literary models, his genius as a poet in the medieval structures of allegory, symbolism, and numerology. Field trip to University of Pennsylvania Rare Book Collection. Text in Italian with facing English translation.

Taught by: Williams
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 232
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Freshman Seminar

COML 235 Medieval Russia: Origins of Russian Cultural Identity
This course offers an overview of the cultural history of Rus from its origins to the eighteenth century, a period which laid the foundation for the Russian Empire. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the evolution of the main cultural paradigms of Russian Orthodoxy viewed in a broader European context. Although this course is historical in content, it is also about modern Russia. The legacy of Medieval Rus is still referenced, often allegorically, in contemporary social and cultural discourse as the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian societies attempt to reconstruct and reinterpret their histories. In this course, students learn that the study of the medieval cultural and political history explains many aspects of modern Russian society, its culture and mentality. Understanding of the region and its people.

Taught by: Verkholantsev
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 219, RUSS 234, SLAV 517
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 236 Napoleonic Era and Tolstoy
In this course we will read what many consider to be the greatest book in world literature. This work, Tolstoy's War and Peace, is devoted to one of the most momentous periods in world history, the Napoleonic Era (1789-1815). We will study both the novel and the era of the Napoleonic Wars: the military campaigns of Napoleon and his opponents, the grand strategies of the age, political intrigues and diplomatic betrayals, the ideologies and human dramas, the relationship between art and history. How does literature help us to understand this era? How does history help us to understand this great novel?
Taught by: Holquist
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 333, RUSS 240
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.

COML 239 Topics in 18th Century Literature
This course explores an aspect of 18th-century literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 241, GSWS 241
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 240 Fairy Tales
This course surveys the fairy tale (Marchen) as an oral narrative genre, and in its transformations as literature, sequential art, and film. Topics include classic and contemporary collections from Europe, the United States, and beyond; issues of "authenticity" and the ownership of tales; fairy tales as folk performance, post-modern pastiche, and material culture; and the genre's relationship to geography, gender, power, and desire. This course will serve as a scholarly introduction to the field of Fairy-Tale Studies. And it may examine works from Matthew Bright, Angela Carter, Emma Donoghue, Guillermo Del Toro, Neil Gaiman, David Kaplan, and Bill Willingham.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 240
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 242 Religion and Literature
A consideration of how great works of literature from different cultural traditions have reclaimed and reinterpreted compelling religious themes. The focus this semester will be on themes of creation, especially the creation of human beings, from ancient myths of different cultures to modern science fiction. This course fulfills the General Requirement in Sector 3, Arts and Letters.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Matter
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 003
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 245 Study of a Theme
This is an introduction to literary study through the works of a compelling literary theme. (For offerings in a given semester, please see the online course descriptions on the English Department website). The theme's function within specific historical contexts, within literary history generally, and within contemporary culture, are likely to be emphasized.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 102, CIMS 112, ENGL 102, GSWS 102, PSYS 102
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 247 Free Radicals: Marx, Marxism, and the Culture of Revolution
"A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of Communism": This, the famous opening line of The Communist Manifesto, will guide this course's exploration of the history, legacy, and potential future of Karl Marx's most important texts and ideas, even long after Communism has been pronounced dead. Contextualizing Marx within a tradition of radical thought regarding politics, religion, and sexuality, we will focus on the philosophical, political, and cultural origins and implications of his ideas. Our work will center on the question of how his writings seek to counter or exploit various tendencies of the time, how they align with the work of Nietzsche, Freud, and other radical thinkers to follow; and how they might continue to haunt us today. We will begin by discussing key works by Marx himself, examining ways in which he is both influenced by and appeals to many of the same fantasies, desires, and anxieties encoded in the literature, arts and intellectual currents of the time. In examining his legacy, we will focus on elaborations or challenges to his ideas, particularly within cultural criticism, postwar protest movements, and the cultural politics of the Cold War. In conclusion, we will turn to the question of Marxism or Post-Marxism today, asking what promise Marx's ideas might still hold in a world vastly different from his own.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 247, PHIL 247
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 248 Topics in European History
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 230
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. Please see the Comparative Literature website for each semester's topic: http://ccat/sas.upenn.edu/Complit/.

COML 249 Topics in 19th Century Literature
This course explores an aspect of 19th-century literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 250, ENGL 251, GSWS 250
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 252 Spanish Literature in Translation
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: SPAN 250
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. The topic may be "Latin American Travel Narratives or "Caribbean Writers in the U.S."
COML 253 Freud: The Invention of Psychoanalysis
No other person of the twentieth century has probably influenced scientific thought, humanistic scholarship, medical therapy, and popular culture as much as Sigmund Freud. This seminar will study his work, its cultural background, and its impact on us today. In the first part of the course, we will learn about Freud’s life and the Viennese culture of his time. We will then move to a discussion of seminal texts, such as excerpts from his Interpretation of Dreams, case studies, as well as essays on psychoanalytic practice, human development, definitions of gender and sex, neuroses, and culture in general. In the final part of the course, we will discuss the impact of Freud’s work. Guest lecturers from the medical field, history of science, psychology, and the humanities will offer insights into the reception of Freud’s work, and its consequences for various fields of study and therapy.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S
Taught by: Weissberg
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 240, GRMN 253, GSWS 252
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.

COML 254 Metropolis: Culture of the City
An exploration of modern discourses on and of the city. Topics include: the city as site of avant-garde experimentation; technology and culture; the city as embodiment of social order and disorder; traffic and speed; ways of seeing the city; the crowd; city figures such as the detective, the criminal, the flaneur, the dandy; film as the new medium of the city. Special emphasis on Berlin. Readings by, among others, Dickens, Poe, Baudelaire, Rilke, Doeblin, Marx, Engels, Benjamin, Kracauer. Films include Fritz Lang's Metropolis and Tom Tykwer's Run Lola Run.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: MacLeod
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 244, GRMN 244, URBS 244
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.

COML 255 Russian Thinkers
This course focuses on the complex relations between philosophy, history, and art in Russia and offers discussions of works of major Russian authors (such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Khlebnikov), religious and political thinkers (Chadaaev, Herzen, Berdiaev, Lenin, Bogdanov), avant-garde artists (Filonov, Malevich) and composers (Scriabin) who created and tested in their lives their own, sometimes very peculiar and radical, worldviews. We will consider these worldviews against a broad cultural background and will reenact them in class in the form of philosophical mini-dramas. The only prerequisite for this course is intellectual curiosity and willingness to embrace diverse, brave and often weird ideas.
Taught by: Vinitsky
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 261
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 256 Contemporary Fiction & Film in Japan
This course will explore fiction and film in contemporary Japan, from 1945 to the present. Topics will include literary and cinematic representation of Japan’s war experience and post-war reconstruction, negotiation with Japanese classics, confrontation with the state, and changing ideas of gender and sexuality. We will explore these and other questions by analyzing texts of various genres, including film and film scripts, novels, short stories, manga, and academic essays. Class sessions will combine lectures, discussion, audio-visual materials, and creative as well as analytical writing exercises. The course is taught in English, although Japanese materials will be made available upon request. No prior coursework in Japanese literature, culture, or film is required or expected; additional secondary materials will be available for students taking the course at the 600 level. Writers and film directors examined may include: Kawabata Yasunari, Hayashi Fumiko, Abe Kobo, Mishima Yukio, Oe Kenzaburo, Yoshimoto Banana, Ozu Yasujirou, Naruse Mikio, Kurosawa Akira, Imamura Shohei, Koreeda Hirokazu, and Beat Takeshi.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 151, EALC 151, GSWS 257
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 257 Jewish Literature in the Middle Ages in Translation
Course explores the cultural history of Jews in the lands of Islam from the time of Mohammed through the late 17th century (end of Ottoman expansion into Europe) –in Iraq, the Middle East, al-Andalus and the Ottoman Empire. Primary source documents (in English translation) illuminate minority-majority relations, internal Jewish tensions (e.g., Qaraism), and developments in scriptural exegesis, rabbinic law, philosophy, poetry, polemics, mysticism and liturgy. Graduate students have additional readings and meetings.
Taught by: Fishman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 153, NELC 158, NELC 458, RELS 223
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 259 Jewish Humor
In modern American popular culture Jewish humor is considered by Jews and non-Jews as a recognizable and distinct form of humor. Focusing upon folk-humor, in this course we will examine the history of this conception, and study different manifestation of Jewish humor as a particular case study of ethnic in general. Specific topics for analysis will be: humor in the Hebrew Bible, Jewish humor in Europe and in America, JAP and JAM jokes, Jewish tricksters and pranksters, Jewish humor in the Holocaust and Jewish humor in Israel. The term paper will be collecting project of Jewish jokes.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Ben-Amos
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: FOLK 296, NELC 254
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 261 Topics in German Cinema
This is a topics course. Specific topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 259, GRMN 259
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
**COML 262 Topics in 20th-Century American Literature**
The course explores an aspect of 20th-century American literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 301, CIMS 263, ENGL 263
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 263 Topics in 20th C. Novel**
This course explores an aspect of the 20th-century novel intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 265, GSWS 266
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 265 Jewish Films and Literature**
From the 1922 silent film "Hungry Hearts" through the first "talkie," "The Jazz Singer," produced in 1927, and beyond "Schindler's List," Jewish characters have confronted the problems of their Jewishness on the silver screen for a general American audience. Alongside this Hollywood tradition of Jewish film, Yiddish film blossomed from independent producers between 1911 and 1939, and interpreted literary masterpieces, from Shakespeare's "King Lear" to Sholom Aleichem's "Teyve the Dairyman," primarily for an immigrant, urban Jewish audience. In this course, we will study a number of films and their literary sources (in fiction and drama), focusing on English language and Yiddish films within the framework of three dilemmas of interpretation: a) the different ways we "read" literature and film, b) the various ways that the media of fiction, drama, and film "translate" Jewish culture, and c) how these translations of Jewish culture affect and are affected by their implied audience.
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CIMS 279, GRMN 261, JWST 261
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

**COML 266 Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature**
The objective of this course is to develop an artistic appreciation for literature through in-depth class discussions and text analysis. Readings comprised of Israeli poetry and short stories. Students examine how literary language expresses psychological and cultural realms. The covers topics such as: the image of the Israeli city, the conflict between individual dreams and national/Zionist goals, etc. Because of the content of this course changes from year to year, students may take it for credit more than once.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COLL 227, HEBR 259, HEBR 559, JWST 259
Prerequisites: HEBR 059 or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew. Grading is based primarily on participation and students' literary understanding. (HEBR 054 or equivalent required)

**COML 267 Topics in Modern Drama**
This course explores an aspect of Modern drama intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 315, ENGL 256, THAR 275
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 268 Fascist Cinemas**
Cinema played a crucial role in the cultural life of Nazi Germany and other fascist states. As cinema enthusiasts, Goebbels and Hitler were among the first to realize the important ideological potential of film as a mass medium and saw to it that Germany remained a cinema powerhouse producing more than 1000 films during the Nazi era. In Italy, Mussolini, too, declared cinema "the strongest weapon." This course explores the world of "fascist" cinemas ranging from infamous propaganda pieces such as The Triumph of the Will to popular entertainments such as musicals and melodramas. It examines the strange and mutually defining kinship between fascism more broadly and film. We will consider what elements mobilize and connect the film industries of the Axis Powers: style, genre, the aestheticization of politics, the creation of racialized others. More than seventy years later, fascist cinemas challenge us to grapple with issues of more subtle ideological insinuation than we might think. Weekly screenings with subtitles.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: MacLeod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 257, GRMN 257, ITAL 257
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All discussions and readings in English.

**COML 270 German Cinema**
An introduction to the momentous history of German film, from its beginnings before World War One to developments following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and German reunification in 1990. With an eye to film's place in its historical and political context, the course will explore the "Golden Age" of German cinema in the Weimar Republic, when Berlin vied with Hollywood; the complex relationship between Nazi ideology and entertainment during the Third Reich; the fate of German film-makers in exile during the Hitler years; post-war film production in both West and East Germany; the call for an alternative to "Papa's Kino"and the rise of New German Cinena in the late 1960's.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: MacLeod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 258, GRMN 258
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 271 Topics in 20th Century Literature**
The course explores an aspect of 20th-century literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 261, ENGL 361
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 272 Topics in the Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora**
This course explores an aspect of the literature of Africa and the African Diaspora intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: AFRC 276, ENGL 271
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 274 Topics: Twentieth Century Poetry**
The course explores an aspect of 20th-century poetry intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Also Offered As: ENGL 262
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
**COML 277 Jewish American Literature**
What makes Jewish American literature Jewish? What makes it American? This course will address these questions about ethnic literature through fiction, poetry, drama, and other writings by Jews in America, from their arrival in 1654 to the present. We will discuss how Jewish identity and ethnicity shape literature and will consider how form and language develop as Jewish writers "immigrate" from Yiddish, Hebrew, and other languages to American English. Our readings, from Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology, will include a variety of stellar authors, both famous and less-known, including Isaac Mayer Wise, Emma Lazarus, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Celia Dropkin, Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, and Allegra Goodman. Students will come away from this course having explored the ways that Jewish culture intertwines with American culture in literature. For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Hellerstein
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GRMN 263, JWST 261
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

**COML 280 Italian Cinema**
The course will consist of a broad and varied sampling of classic Italian films from WWII to the present. The curriculum will be divided into four units: (1) The Neorealist Revolution, (2) Metacinema, (3) Fascism and War Revisited, and (4) Postmodernism or the Death of the Cinema. One of the aims of the course will be to develop a sense of "cinematic literacy"--to develop critical techniques that will make us active interpreters of the cinematic image by challenging the expectations that Hollywood has implanted in us: that films be action-packed wish-fulfillment fantasies. Italian cinema will invite us to re-examine and revise the very narrow conception that we Americans have of the medium. We will also use the films as a means to explore the postwar Italian culture so powerfully reflected, and in turn, shaped, by its national cinema. Classes will include close visual analysis of films using video clips and slides. The films will be in Italian with English subtitles and will include works of Fellini, Antonioni, De Sica, Visconti, Pasolini, Wertüller, Rossellini, Rossellini, Bertolucci and Moretti.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 340, ITAL 322
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 281 Topics Poetry and Poetics**
This course explores an aspect of poetry and poetics intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Also Offered As: ENGL 269
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 282 Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture in Translation**
This course follows and analyzes the transformations in Israeli literature and cinema. The focus and the specific topic of the study changes from semester to semester. Topics include: The Holocaust; The Image of Childhood; Dream, Fantasy and Madness; Love and War; The Many Voices of Israel; The Image of the City; and other topics. While Israeli works constitute much of the course's material, European and American film and fiction play comparative roles. 5-6 film screenings per semester; This topic course explores aspects of Hebrew Literature, Film, and Culture. Specific course topics vary from semester to semester. Students may take it more than once for credit. Please see the COML website for the current course offering.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: CIMS 159, ENGL 079, JWST 154, NELC 159
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: There will be five film screenings; the films will also be placed on reserve at the library for those students unable to attend. The content of this course changes from year to year, and therefore, students may take it for credit more than once.

**COML 283 Jewish Folklore in Literature**
The Jews are among the few nations and ethnic groups whose oral tradition occurs in literary and religious texts dating back more than two thousand years. This tradition changed and diversified over the years in terms of the migration of Jews into different countries and historical, social, and cultural changes that these countries underwent. The course attempts to capture the historical and ethnic diversity of Jewish folklore in a variety of oral literary forms.
Taught by: Ben-Amos
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 280, JWST 260, NELC 258
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

**COML 284 Latin American Literature**
This course explores an aspect of Latina/o literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 270, LALS 291, ROML 290
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

**COML 287 Ethnic Humor**
Humor in ethnic societies has two dimensions: internal and external. The inside humor of an ethnic group is accessible to its members; it draws upon their respective social structures, historical and social experiences, languages, cultural symbols, and social and economic circumstances and aspirations. The external humor of an ethnic group targets members of other ethnic groups, and draws upon their stereotypes, and attributed characteristics by other ethnic groups. The external ethnic humor flourishes in immigrant and ethnically heterogenic societies. In both cases jokes and humor are an integral part of social interaction, and in their performance relate to the social, economic, and political dynamics of traditional and modern societies.
Taught by: Ben-Amos, D.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 202, NELC 287
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 288 Topics in American Poetry
Sometimes limiting itself to the works of one or two authors, sometimes focusing on a particular theme such as "American Poetry and Democratic Culture," this course devotes itself to the study of twentieth-century America poetry.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 288, ENGL 288
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 290 Topics In Gender, Sexuality, and Literature
The advanced women's studies course in the department, focusing on a particular aspect of literature by and about women. Topics might include: "Victorian Literary Women", "Women, Politics, and Literature", "Feminist Literary Theory", and similar foci.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 290, GSWS 290
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 291 Topics In Literary Theory
This course explores an aspect of literary theory intensively; specific course topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 294, GSWS 296
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 292 Topics Film Studies
Specific course topics vary from year to year.
Taught by: Beckman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 289, CIMS 202, ENGL 292, GSWS 292
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 295 Topics in Cultural Studies
This course explores an aspect of cultural studies intensively; specific course topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 296, ARTH 293, CIMS 295, ENGL 295
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 296 Classical Epic and Medieval Romance
This course looks at a number of strands in the broad epic tradition: narratives of warfare, quest narratives (both geographical and spiritual), and the combination of the two in narratives of chivalry and love. We will start with the Homeric poems, reading Iliad and Odyssey, and then we will see how Homeric themes are reprised in Virgil’s narrative of travel, conquest, and empire, the Aeneid. From there we will move to one medieval epic of warfare, Beowulf. In the last part of the course we will read some Arthurian romances, which take up certain themes familiar from epic, but place them in a new context: the medieval institution of chivalry, where the ancient warrior is replaced by the medieval knight, where the collective battle is replaced by the individual quest, and where the psychology of sexual desire is now foregrounded as a motivation for heroic self-realization.
Taught by: Copeland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 296, CLST 360, ENGL 229
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 300 Topics in Italian History, Literature, and Culture
Topics vary. Please check the department’s website for course description: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/complit/
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 300, ENGL 231, ITAL 300
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. Topics will vary from year to year.

COML 301 Handschrift-Hypertext: Deutsche Medien
This course will provide an introduction to German-language literary studies through exemplary readings of short forms: fables, fairy tales, aphorisms, stories, novellas, feuilletons, poems, songs, radio plays, film clips, web projects and others. Paying particular attention to how emergent technology influences genre, we will trace an evolution from Minnesang to rock songs, from early print culture to the internet age and from Handschrift to hypertext. Students will have ample opportunity to improve their spoken and written German through class discussion and a series of internet-based assignments. Readings and discussions in German.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: COLL 225, GRMN 301
Prerequisites: GRMN 203 is a prerequisite.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course will be offered every spring semester. Taught in German.

COML 302 Odyssey and its Afterlife
As an epic account of wandering, survival, and homecoming, Homer’s Odyssey has been a constant source of themes and images with which to define and redefine the nature of heroism, the sources of identity, and the challenge of finding a place in the world.
Taught by: Murnaghan
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CLST 302
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 300 Topics in Italian History, Literature, and Culture
Notes: This is a topics course. Topics will vary from year to year.

COML 301 Handschrift-Hypertext: Deutsche Medien
This course will provide an introduction to German-language literary studies through exemplary readings of short forms: fables, fairy tales, aphorisms, stories, novellas, feuilletons, poems, songs, radio plays, film clips, web projects and others. Paying particular attention to how emergent technology influences genre, we will trace an evolution from Minnesang to rock songs, from early print culture to the internet age and from Handschrift to hypertext. Students will have ample opportunity to improve their spoken and written German through class discussion and a series of internet-based assignments. Readings and discussions in German.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: COLL 225, GRMN 301
Prerequisites: GRMN 203 is a prerequisite.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course will be offered every spring semester. Taught in German.

COML 302 Odyssey and its Afterlife
As an epic account of wandering, survival, and homecoming, Homer’s Odyssey has been a constant source of themes and images with which to define and redefine the nature of heroism, the sources of identity, and the challenge of finding a place in the world.
Taught by: Murnaghan
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CLST 302
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 300 Topics in Italian History, Literature, and Culture
Notes: This is a topics course. Topics will vary from year to year.

COML 301 Handschrift-Hypertext: Deutsche Medien
This course will provide an introduction to German-language literary studies through exemplary readings of short forms: fables, fairy tales, aphorisms, stories, novellas, feuilletons, poems, songs, radio plays, film clips, web projects and others. Paying particular attention to how emergent technology influences genre, we will trace an evolution from Minnesang to rock songs, from early print culture to the internet age and from Handschrift to hypertext. Students will have ample opportunity to improve their spoken and written German through class discussion and a series of internet-based assignments. Readings and discussions in German.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered summer term only
Also Offered As: COLL 225, GRMN 301
Prerequisites: GRMN 203 is a prerequisite.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course will be offered every spring semester. Taught in German.
COML 322 Advanced Topics in Global Gender and Sexuality Studies
How do sex and gender become sites of cultural production, identity-formation, and contentious politics? This seminar engages these questions in the context of the "Middle East" as a constructed geopolitical space for imperial politics and political intervention. The class is divided into three units. In the first unit, we engage feminist and queer theories to discuss the shifting meanings of "sex" and "gender" in transnational and postcolonial contexts. In the second unit we explore the contextual and shifting notions of "private" and "public" as they have been elaborated in political theory, feminist theory, and media studies. We also consider how different media technologies enable and constrain the performance and expression of gender and sexual identities. In the last unit, we examine the material and symbolic construction of sex and gender in the shadow of Orientalism, the War on Terror, Multiculturalism, and the recent Arab uprisings. In this unit, we consider how geopolitics are refracted in public controversies around issues like gay rights, female genital mutilation, the veil, and honor killing.
Also Offered As: CIMS 322, GSWS 322
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 324 Sanskrit Literature and Poetics
This course will focus solely on the specific genres, themes, and aesthetics of Sanskrit literature (the hymn, the epic, the lyric, prose, drama, story literature, the sutra, etc.) and a study of the history and specific topics of Sanskrit poetics and dramaturgy. All readings will be in translation.
Taught by: Patel
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 624, SAST 324, SAST 624
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 329 Topics in Classicism and Literature
This advanced seminar will examine the classical backgrounds to English poetry in particular the Biblical and Greco-Roman antecedents to Renaissance lyric verse and verse drama (such as, preeminently, Shakespeare). Different versions of this course will have different emphases on Biblical or Hellenistic backgrounds.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 329, ENGL 329
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

COML 330 Adv Topics Dutch Studies
Topics vary annually.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: DTCH 330, GRMN 330
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Taught in English.

COML 332 Topics In Modern Drama
This course explores an aspect of Modern drama intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ENGL 356
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

COML 333 Dante's Divine Comedy
In this course we will read the Inferno, the Purgatorio and the Paradiso, focusing on a series of interrelated problems raised by the poem: authority, fiction, history, politics and language. Particular attention will be given to how the Commedia presents itself as Dante's autobiography, and to how the autobiographical narrative serves as a unifying thread for this supremely rich literary text. Supplementary readings will include Virgil's Aeneid and selections from Ovid's Metamorphoses. All readings and written work will be in English. Italian or Italian Studies credit will require reading Italian texts in the original language and writing about their themes in Italian. This course may be taken for graduate credit, but additional work and meetings with the instructor will be required.
Taught by: Brownee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ITAL 333
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 334 A Survey of Sanskrit, Pakrit, and Classical Tamil Literature in Translation
This course will cover most of the genres of literature in South Asia's classical languages through close readings of selections of primary texts in English translation. Special focus will be given to epics, drama, lyric poetry, satirical works, and religious literature.
Taught by: Patel
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 334
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 341 Masculinity in French Literature
Why was a portrait depicting the Renaissance king Francois I as half-man, half-woman made with royal approval, and moreover intended to represent the king as the perfect embodiment of the ideal qualities of a male sovereign? And why, in what is now regarded as the official portrait of Louis XIV, does the king prominently display his silk stockings and high heels with diamond-encrusted buckles? These are just two examples of the questions that lead us to the point of departure for this course: the idea that masculinity is not a fixed essence that has existed since time immemorial, but rather a flexible concept that changes across and even within historical periods.
Taught by: Francis
Also Offered As: FREN 341, GSWS 343
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 343 Nineteenth Century European Intellectual History
Starting with the dual challenges of Enlightenment and Revolution at the close of the eighteenth century, this course examines the emergence of modern European thought and culture in the century from Kant to Nietzsche. Themes to be considered include Romanticism, Utopian Socialism, early Feminism, Marxism, Liberalism, and Aesthetics. Readings include Kant, Hegel, Burke, Marx, Mill, Wollstonecraft, Darwin, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche.
Taught by: Breckman
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 343
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
COML 344 20th Century European Intellectual History
European intellectual and cultural history from 1870 to 1950. Themes to be considered include aesthetic modernism and the avant-garde, the rebellion against rationalism and positivism, Social Darwinism, Second International Socialism, the impact of World War One on European intellectuals, psychoanalysis, existentialism, and the ideological origins of fascism. Figures to be studied include Nietzsche, Freud, Woolf, Sartre, Camus, and Heidegger.
Taught by: Breckman
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 344
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 350 Introduction to Criticism
This course includes both a general survey of classic writings in Western aesthetics as well as readings on the major trends in literary criticism in the twentieth century. A recurring theme will be the literary canon and how it reflects or influences values and interpretative strategies. Among the topics covered are feminist literary criticism, structuralism and poststructuralism, Marxist criticism, and psychological criticism. Authors include Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Hegel, T.S. Eliot, Bakhtin, Sontag, Barthes, Foucault, Derrida, Virginia Woolf, de Beauvoir, Showalter, Cixous, Gilbert and Guber, Kolodny, Marx, Benjamin, and Freud.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 350
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 353 Arabic Literature and Literary Theory
This course will explore different critical approaches to the interpretation and analysis of Arabic literature from pre-Islamic poetry to the modern novel and prose-poem. The course will draw on western and Arabic literary criticism to explore the role of critical theory not only in understanding and contextualizing literature but also in forming literary genres and attitudes. Among these approaches are: Meta-poetry and inter-Arts theory, Genre theory, Myth and Archetype, Poetics and Rhetoric, and Performance theory.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: COML 505, NELC 494
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 355 Topics in Modernism
This course explores an aspect of literary modernism intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 359, GRMN 249, RUSS 252
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 357 Myth In Society
In this course we will explore the mythologies of selected peoples in the Ancient Near East, Africa, Asia, and Native North and South America and examine how the gods function in the life and belief of each society. The study of mythological texts will be accompanied, as much as possible, by illustrative slides that will show the images of these deities in art and ritual.
Taught by: Ben-Amos
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ANTH 226, FOLK 229, NELC 249
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 359 Seminar Modern Hebrew Literature
This course is for students who are interested in taking a literature course in Hebrew and are proficient in it. Grading is based primarily on students' literary understanding. This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. There will be four 2-page written assignments over the course of the semester. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. The fiction and poetry studied is selected each year from works created during a period of over a hundred years of Modern Hebrew writings. The foci of the study range from national to personal issues. These topics and the specific periods represented change each year, drawing upon the classics, the pre-State period, the 1948 war period and on to contemporary Israeli Literature. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CIMS 359, COLL 227, HEBR 359, JWST 359
Prerequisites: This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. The syllabus serves solely as an outline. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. Additionally, the packet contains significantly more material than will be studied in class to compensate for the difficulty of obtaining Hebrew texts in America. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 360 Introduction to Literary Theory
In this course, we will examine a broad corpus of texts from a range of modern literary-theoretical schools, including formalism, structuralism, deconstruction, reader-response theory, Marxism, psychoanalysis, feminism, and post-colonialism. Through detailed readings of these works, we will address such issues as: the nature of language and its relationship to reality; the problems of identity and ideology; the notions of cultural authority and difference; and the politics of literature and "theory." Secondary readings will be drawn from British, German, and French/Francophone literary traditions. Taught in English.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 361 Topics in the Novel
This course explores an aspect of the novel intensively, asking how novels work and what they do to us and for us. Specific course topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 360
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 372 Horror Cinema
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the history and main themes of the supernatural/horror film from a comparative perspective. Films considered will include: the German expressionists masterworks of the silent era, the Universal classics of the 30’s and the low-budget horror films produced by Val Lewton in the 40’s for RKO in the US, the 1950’s color films of sex and violence by Hammer studios in England, Italian Gothic horror or giallo (Mario Brava) and French lyrical macabre (Georges Franju) in the 60’s, and on to contemporary gore. In an effort to better understand how the horror film makes us confront our worst fears and our most secret desires alike, we will look at the genre’s main iconic figures (Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, etc.) as well as issues of ethics, gender, sexuality, violence, spectatorship through a variety of critical lenses (psychoanalysis, socio-historial and cultural context, aesthetics,...).
Taught by: Met
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 382, FREN 382
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 378 Topics in Literature and Society
This course explores an aspect of Postcolonial literature intensively specific course topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 293, ENGL 293, GSWS 226
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 380 The Bible in Translation
This course introduces undergraduates and graduate students to one specific Book of the Hebrew Bible. "The Bible in Translation" involves an in-depth reading of a biblical source against the background of contemporary scholarship. Depending on the book under discussion, this may also involve a contextual reading with other biblical books and the textural sources of the ancient Near East. No prerequisites are required.
Taught by: Cranz
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 255, NELC 250, NELC 550, RELS 224
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 382 Italian Literature of the 20th Century
Topics vary, covering a range of genres and authors.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 379, ITAL 380
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 383 Topics in Literary Theory
This is a course on the history of literary theory, a survey of major debates about literature, poetics, and ideas about what literary texts should do, from ancient Greece to examples of modern European thought. The first half of the course will focus on early periods: Greek and Roman antiquity, especially Plato and Aristotle; the medieval period (including St. Augustine, Dante, and Boccaccio), and the early modern period (such as Philip Sidney and Giammbattista Vico). We'll move into modern and 20th century by looking at the literary (or "art") theories of some major philosophers, artists, and poets: Kant, Hegel, Shelley, Marx, the painter William Morris, Freud, and the critic Walter Benjamin. We'll end with a look at Foucault's work. The point of this course is to consider closely the Western European tradition which generated questions that are still with us, such as: what is the "aesthetic"; what is "imitation" or mimesis; how are we to know an author's intention; and under what circumstances should literary texts ever be censored.
Taught by: Copeland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 396, ENGL 394
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

COML 384 Holocaust in Italian Literature and Film
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 387, ITAL 384
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Holocaust in Italian Literature and Film

COML 385 Japanese Theatre
Japan has one of the richest and most varied theatrical traditions in the world. In this course, we will examine Japanese theatre in historical and comparative contexts. The readings and discussions will cover all areas of the theatrical experience (script, acting, stage, design, costumes, music, audience). Audio-visual material will be used whenever appropriate and possible. Requirements include short writing assignments, presentations, and one research paper. Reading knowledge of Japanese and/or previous course-work in literature/theatre will be helpful, but not required. The class will be conducted in English, with all English materials.
Taught by: Kano
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 255, FOLK 485, THAR 485
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 390 Introduction to Spanish American Literature
Topics vary.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: LALS 396, SPAN 390
Prerequisite: SPAN 219
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 391 Topics Film Studies
This topic course explores aspects of Cinema Studies intensively. Specific course topics vary from year to year. See the COML website at <http://complit.upenn.edu/> for a description of the current offerings.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 392, ARTH 389, CIMS 392, ENGL 392, SLAV 392
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
**COML 392 Topics in Postcolonial Lit**  
This course explores an aspect of Postcolonial literature intensively; specific course topics vary from year to year.  
Course not offered every year  
Also Offered As: ENGL 393, SAST 323  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  
Notes: Benjamin Franklin Seminar

**COML 395 Topics in Cultural Studies**  
This course explores an aspect of cultural studies intensively; specific course topics vary from year to year.  
Course not offered every year  
Also Offered As: ENGL 395  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**COML 411 Introduction to Written Culture, 14th - 16th Centuries**  
This is a topics course. Please see the Comparative Literature website for each semester’s topic: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/.  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: ENGL 234, HIST 411  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**COML 415 Medieval Islamic Art and Architecture**  
An introduction to the major architectural monuments and trends, as well as to the best-known objects of the medieval (seventh-to fourteenth-century) Islamic world. Attention will be paid to such themes as the continuity of late antique themes, architecture as symbol of community and power, the importance of textiles and primacy of writing. Suitable for students of literature, history, anthropology as well as art history.  
Taught by: Holod  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: AAMW 435, ARTH 435, NELC 489  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit

**COML 416 European Intellectual History in the 18th Century**  
A survey based solely on primary sources of the main currents of eighteenth-century European thought: the "Enlightenment;" deism; natural religion; skepticism; evangelical revival; political reform; utilitarianism; naturalism; and materialism. The course will focus on works widely-read in the eighteenth century and of enduring historical significance. There are no prerequisites, and one of the goals of the course is to make eighteenth-century thought accessible in its context to the twenty-first century student.  
Taught by: Kors  
One-term course offered in spring term  
Also Offered As: HIST 415  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit

**COML 418 European Intellectual History Since 1945**  
This course concentrates on French intellectual history after 1945, with some excursions into Germany. We will explore changing conceptions of the intellectual, from Sartre’s concept of the ‘engagement’ to Foucault’s idea of the “specific intellectual”; the rise and fall of existentialism; structuralism and poststructuralism; and the debate over “postmodernity.”  
Taught by: Breckman  
Course usually offered in spring term  
Also Offered As: HIST 418  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**COML 419 European Intellectual History of the Seventeenth Century**  
A survey based solely on primary sources of the main currents of seventeenth-century European thought: the criticism of inherited systems and of the authority of the past; skepticism, rationalism; empiricism; and the rise of the new natural philosophy. We will study deep conceptual change as an historical phenomenon, examining works that were both profoundly influential in the seventeenth-century and that are of enduring historical significance. There are no prerequisites, and one of the goals of the course is to make seventeenth-century thought accessible in its context to the twenty-first century student.  
Taught by: Kors  
Also Offered As: HIST 415  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit

**COML 498 Honors Thesis**  
One-term course offered either term  
Activity: Independent Study  
1 Course Unit

**COML 499 Independent Study**  
Supervised study for Seniors.  
One-term course offered either term  
Activity: Independent Study  
1 Course Unit

**COML 501 Basic Issues in the History of Literary Theory**  
Over the last three decades, the fields of literary and cultural studies have been reconfigured by a variety of theoretical and methodological developments. Bracing and often confrontational dialogues between theoretical and political positions as varied as Deconstruction, New Historicism, Cultural Materialism, Feminism, Queer Theory, Minority Discourse Theory, Colonial and Post-colonial Studies and Cultural Studies have, in particular, altered disciplinary agendas and intellectual priorities for students embarking on the /professional /study of literature. In this course, we will study key texts, statements and debates that define these issues, and will work towards a broad knowledge of the complex rewriting of the project of literary studies in process today. The reading list will keep in mind the Examination List in Comparative Literature we will not work towards complete coverage but will ask how crucial contemporary theorists engage with the longer history and institutional practices of literary criticism.  
Course usually offered in fall term  
Also Offered As: CLST 511, ENGL 600, GRMN 534, SLAV 500  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**COML 417 Later Islamic Art and Architecture**  
Istanbul, Samarkand, Isfahan, Cairo and Delhi as major centers of art production in the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries. Attention will be given to urban and architectural achievement as well as to the key monuments of painting and metalwork. The visual environment of the “gunpowder empires” is discussed.  
Taught by: Holod  
Course not offered every year  
Also Offered As: AAMW 531, ARTH 436, NELC 436, RELS 440  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit
COML 502 Introduction to Old English Language and Literature
This is an accelerated study of the basic language of Anglo-Saxon England, together with a critical reading of a variety of texts, both prose and poetry.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 501, GRMN 510, HIST 590
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 503 Italian Literary Theory
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 501
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. The topic may be "History and Language of Italy"

COML 504 Electronic Literary Studies Proseminar
This course is designed to introduce advanced undergraduate and graduate students to the range of new opportunities for literary research afforded by recent technological innovation.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 505, ENGL 505
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 505 Arabic Literature and Literary Theory
This course will explore different critical approaches to the interpretation and analysis of Arabic literature from pre-Islamic poetry to the modern novel and prose-poem. The course will draw on western and Arabic literary criticism to explore the role of critical theory not only in understanding and contextualizing literature but also in forming literary genres and attitudes. Among these approaches are: Meta-poetry and inter-Arts theory, Genre theory, Myth and Archetype, Poetics and Rhetoric, and Performance theory.
Taught by: Fakhreddine
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: COML 353, NELC 434
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 506 Topics in Twentieth-Century Literature
This course treats some aspect of literary and cultural politics in the 20th-Century with emphasis varying by instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 500, ENGL 461, ENGL 492
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 507 Reading Sanskrit Literature
Readings of selected texts.
Taught by: Patel
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 480
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 508 World Views in Collision
The impact of paradigm shifts on Italian and European culture.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 562
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 509 Modernist Jewish Poetry
The premise of this course is to present Jewish modernism as an international phenomenon of the early 20th century.
Taught by: Hellerstein
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GRMN 509, JWST 509, YDSH 509
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 510 Medieval Education: History, Practices, Texts
This course will cover various important aspects of education and intellectual culture from late antiquity (c. 400 A.D.) to the later Middle Ages (c. 1400 A.D.) across Europe. We will look especially at how the arts of language (grammar, rhetoric, dialectic) were formalized and "packaged" in late antique/early medieval encyclopedias (e.g., Martianus Capella's "Marriage of Mercury and Philology," Cassiodorus' "Institutes of Divine and Secular Learning," Boethius and Augustine on rhetoric, Donatus and Priscian on grammar, Boethius on dialectic, Isidore of Seville on all the sciences), and at how later theorists and systematizers recombined and reconfigured knowledge systems for new uses (especially monastic education, including notably Hugh of St. Victor's "Didascalicon"). We will also look at how the earlier and later Middle Ages differentiated between "primary" and "advanced" education, how children and childhood are represented in educational discourse, how women participate in (or are figured in) intellectual discourse (Eloise, Hildegard of Bingen, Christine de Pizan), how universities changed ideas of intellectual formation, and how vernacular learning in the later Middle Ages added yet another dimension to the representation of learning.
Taught by: Copeland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 505, CIMS 502
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

COML 521 Boccaccio
Boccaccio's life and work in the context of Italian and European culture and society.
Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 537
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 522 Chaucer
An advanced introduction to Chaucer's poetry and Chaucer criticism. Reading and discussion of the dream visions, Troilus and Criseyde, and selections from Canterbury Tales, from the viewpoint of Chaucer's development as a narrative artist.
Taught by: Wallace
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 525, GSWS 524
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 523 The Trouble with Freud
For professionals in the field of mental care, Freud's work is often regarded as outmoded, if not problematic psychologists view his work as non-scientific, dependent on theses that cannot be confirmed by experiments. In the realm of literary and cultural theory, however, Freud's work seems to have relevance still, and is cited often. How do we understand the gap between a medical/scientific reading of Freud's work, and a humanist one? Where do we locate Freud's relevance today? The graduate course will concentrate on Freud's descriptions of psychoanalytic theory and practice, as well as his writings on literature and culture.
Taught by: Weissberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 526
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Reading and discussions in English.

COML 524 Petrarch
This course will study Petrarch's lyric poetry with reference to its Italian roots (Sicilian school, dolce stil nuovo) and European posterity: Renaissance and Baroque Petrarchism as well as impingement on the Romantics.
Taught by: Brownlee
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 535
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 525 Theories: Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Theories in Gender and Sexuality: Objects, Ideas, Institutions foregrounds new works in feminist thinking which circumvent and resist stale modes of teaching, in learning and knowing difference and "the woman question." Our aim is to interrogate the normative directionality of feminist "waves" and additive and intersectional models of suturing gender and sexuality to minoritarian politics. We will conceptualize feminism as relational to studies of affect, object oriented ontology animality, feminist science, and aesthetics.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 526
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 526 In Defiance of Babel: The Quest for a Universal Language
This is a course in intellectual history. It explores the historical trajectory, from antiquity to the present day, of the idea that there once was, and again could be, a universal and perfect language to explain and communicate the essence of human experience. The idea that the language spoken in the Garden of Eden was a language which perfectly expressed the essence of all possible objects and concepts has occupied the minds of scholars for more than two millennia. In defiance of the myth of the Tower of Babel and the confusion of languages, they strove to overcome divine punishment and discover the path back to harmonious existence.
Taught by: Verkhelantsev
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 705, HIST 526, SLAV 526
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 528 Late Soviet to Non-Soviet Literature and Culture
The aims of this course are threefold: to introduce students to some signature literary and cultural texts form roughly the post-Stalin era to the present, to equip them with relevant theoretical approaches and concerns, and finally, to offer a space where they can develop their own research projects. A major theme will be the relations between "Russian" literature and history, in which literature is not only a mimesis of the historical process but often an active agent. Throughout, we will be particularly attentive to the periphery of literature. In the first place, this means an expanded geography, the inclusion of non-Russian Soviet and emigre writers before and after 1991, as well as an effort to theorize their structural position. Secondly, we will adopt the late Formalists' understanding of literary periphery as the genres, cultural forms, institutions, and phenomena that abutted the literary field and affected its processes. Depending on student interest, our attention to these objects of inquiry could be directed toward bardic song and the later lyric-centric Russian rock, samizdat and literary internet, thick journals and literary prizes, Soviet-era disidence and today's protest culture.
Taught by: Platt & Djagalov
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 528
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 529 Black Cinema
This course treats some important aspect of African-American literature and culture. Some recent versions of the course have focused on the emergence of African-American women writers, on the relation between African-American literature and cultural studies, and on the Harlem Renaissance.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 526, ARTH 504, CIMS 530
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 531 Russian Awakenings: Western Mysticism and 19th-Century Russian Culture
This course will consider the role of western mystical legacy (from Jakob Bohme to Madame Blavatsky) in 19th-Century Russian literature and culture. From the late 18th to early 20th century, Russia witnessed several surges (or awakenings) of mysticism. As a rule, these mystical waves came from the West (usually through German intermediacy) and tended to coincide with critical historical junctures, such as the moral crisis at the end of the reign of Catherine the Great (the rise of Russian Free Masonry), the Russian victory over Napoleon and the establishment of a new European order (the emergence of mystical/political circles of the 1810s), a deep ideological schism in the Russian intelligentsia in the 1860s (the rise of Russian spiritualism), and finally, the revolutionary period in the first decade of the 20th century.
Taught by: Vinitsky
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 541
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings will be available in English, although reading in the original is encouraged. Discussion will be in English.
COML 533 Dante's Divine Comedy I
"Divine Comedy" in the context of Dante's medieval worldview and culture.
Taught by: Brownlee, K.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 531
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 535 The Hindi Nation and its Fragments
This course will trace the formation and contestation of a Hindi national public during the colonial and post-colonial periods, utilizing the post-colonial critical thought of writers in English like Partha Chatterjee, Gayatri Spivak, and Ajiaz Ahmed, but also of critics writing in Hindi like Namvar Singh, Ashok Vajpevi, Rajendra Yadav, etc. Attention will be given to this manner in which the contours and character of this imagined community have been debated in the context of different literary, social, and political movements, with particular emphases given to aspects of gender, caste, and regional identity. Central to class discussions will be the question of what constitutes a language literature, and consequently what relationship those concepts can have to nation in a multilingual state such as India. Readings will be in translation.
Taught by: Williams
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: COML 226, SAST 227, SAST 527
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 536 Goethe's Novels
With each of his major novels, Goethe intervened decisively and provocatively in the genre and wider culture. This seminar will analyze three of Goethe's novels spanning his career: the epistolary novel The Sorrows of Young Werther; the novel of adultery Elective Affinities, and the "archival" novel Wilhelm Meisters Journeyman Years. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which these novels address questions of modernization - technology and secularization, to name only two - through the lens of individuals who understand themselves in relation to artistic media. We will also consider seminar scholarship on the novels (e.g. Benjamin, Lukács) in addition to recent critical approaches.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 535
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 537 Topics in Cultural History
An introduction to the practice and theory of epic in the early modern period. Specific texts vary with instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 584, GRMN 541
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 539 Memory
In recent years, studies of memory (both individual and cultural) have rivaled those of history, and have produced alternative narratives of events. At the same time, research has also focused on the rupture of narrative, the inability to find appropriate forms of telling, and the experience of a loss of words. The notion of trauma (Greek for "wound") may stand for such a rupture. Many kinds of narratives, most prominently the recollections of Holocaust survivors, are instances in which memories are invoked not only to come to terms with traumatic events, but also to inscribe trauma in various ways. In this seminar, we will read theoretical work on memory and trauma, discuss their implication for the study of literature, art, and culture, read select examples from Holocaust survivors' autobiographies (i.e. Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel), and discuss visual art (i.e. Boltanski, Kiefer) and film (i.e. Resnais, Lanzmann, Spielberg).
Taught by: Weissberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 540
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 540 Topics in Renaissance Culture
Renaissance Italian society, art, intellectual and political history.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 540
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 543 Shakespeare and His Contemporaries
Readings in the work of Shakespeare and other writers of the period. Specific texts vary with instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 535
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 546 The Novel and Marriage
Historians have argued that early novels helped shape public opinion on many controversial issues. And no subject was more often featured in novels than marriage. In the course of the 18th and the 19th centuries, at a time when marriage as an institution was being radically redefined, almost all the best known novels explored happy as well as unhappy unions, individuals who decided not to marry as well as those whose lives were destroyed by the institution. They showcased marriage in other words in ways certain to provoke debate. We will both survey the development of the modern novel from the late 17th to the early 20th century and study the treatment of marriage in some of the greatest novels of all time. We will begin with novels from the French and English traditions, the national literatures in which the genre first took shape, in particular Laclos' DANGEROUS LIAISONS, Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, Bronte's JANE EYRE, Flaubert's MADAME BOVARY. We will then turn to works from the other European traditions such as Goethe's ELECTIVE AFFINITIES and Tolstoy's ANNA KARENINA. We will begin the course by discussing the novel often referred to as the first modern novel, THE PRINCESS DE CLEVES. This was also the first novel centered on an individual's life as a subject of public during the colonial and post-colonial periods, utilizing the post-colonial critical thought of writers in English like Partha Chatterjee, Gayatri Spivak, and Ajiaz Ahmed, but also of critics writing in Hindi like Namvar Singh, Ashok Vajpevi, Rajendra Yadav, etc. Attention will be given to this manner in which the contours and character of this imagined community have been debated in the context of different literary, social, and political movements, with particular emphases given to aspects of gender, caste, and regional identity. Central to class discussions will be the question of what constitutes a language literature, and consequently what relationship those concepts can have to nation in a multilingual state such as India. Readings will be in translation.
Taught by: Brownlee, K.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 531
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 550 Stalinist Culture
This course will explore the cultural context in which the so-called
Romantic Movement prospered, and will pay special attention to the
relationship between the most notorious popular genres of the period
(Gothic fiction and drama) and the poetic production of both canonical
and emerging poets.
Taught by: Platt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RUSS 549
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 551 British Romanticism
This course attempts a concentrated survey of the early years --
primarily the 1790's --of the English Romantic period. Specific texts vary
with instructor, but usually include works from Blake, Coleridge, and
Wordsworth.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 552 Topics in Film
From the early 20th century, German cinema has played a key role in the
history of film. Seminar topics may include: Weimar cinema, film in the
Nazi period, East German film, the New German cinema, and feminist film.
Taught by: Richter
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: ARTH 550, CIMS 550, GRMN 550
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 554 British Women Writers
A study of British women writers, often focusing on the women authors
who came into prominence between 1775 and 1825.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 553, GSWS 553
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 556 Ancient Interpretation of the Bible and Contemporary Literary
Theory
Christianity and Judaism are often called "Biblical religions" because
they are believed to be founded upon the Bible. But the truth of the
matter is that it was less the Bible itself than the particular ways in
which the Bible was read and interpreted by Christians and Jews that
shaped the development of these two religions and that also marked
the difference between them. So, too, ancient Biblical interpretation --
Jewish and Christian-- laid the groundwork for and developed virtually all
the techniques and methods that have dominated literary criticism and
hermeneutics (the science of interpretation) since then.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: JWST 356, JWST 555, NELC 356, RELS 418
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 558 Major Renaissance Writers
This course will look at Renaissance images of the Author, both in the
visual arts (portraits in manuscripts, cycles of famous men, statuary,
medals) and in the literary tradition, especially lives of the poets and
defenses of poetry. Focusing on Homer, Virgil, and Ovid; Dante, Petrarch,
Boccaccio and Renaissance women poets, it will reconstruct the author
as an ideal figure, the inspired sage and prophet. We shall discuss legend
and literary canon formation, considering how poets are analogous to
saints in their cults and the folkloristic anecdotes that grow up around
them. The figure of the poet as constructed by different historical eras
will be studied with reference to theories of literature as they developed
from the Middle Ages to the early modern period.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 538
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 559 Topics in Philosophy and Literature
This a topics course. Please see the Comparative Literature website for
the topic: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: GRMN 560
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 560 Topics in Afro-American Literature
This course treats some important aspect of African-American literature
and culture. Some recent versions of the course have focused on the
emergence of African-American women writers, on the relation between
African-American literature and cultural studies, and on the Harlem
Renaissance.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 570, ENGL 570
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 561 Studies in the 18th Century
Please check the Comp Lit website for the course descriptions.
Taught by: DeJean
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 560
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 564 Modern British Literature
An introduction to British Literary Modernism. Specific emphasis will
depend on instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 564
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 570 Topics in Criticism and Theory
Taught by: MacLeod
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 573, CIMS 515, ENGL 573, FREN 573, GRMN 573
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This course covers topics in literary criticism and theory. It's
specific emphasis varying with instructor.

COML 571 Topics in Afro-American Literature
This course treats some important aspect of African-American literature
and culture. Some recent versions of the course have focused on the
emergence of African-American women writers, on the relation between
African-American literature and cultural studies, and on the Harlem
Renaissance.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 570, ENGL 570
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 575 Topics in African Literature
This course is based on a selection of representative texts written in English, as well as a few texts in English translation. It involves, a study of themes relating to social change and the persistence of cultural traditions, followed by an attempt at sketching the emergence of literary tradition by identifying some of the formal conventions established writers in their use of old forms and experiments with new.
Taught by: Barnard
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 572, CIMS 572, ENGL 572
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 577 20th Century Poetry
Taught by: Bernstein
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 589
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 578 Topics in Literature and Society
This is a topics course which varies year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 593
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 579 Slavic Literary Theory in Western Context
This course will compare selected theoretical concepts advanced by Russian Formalists, Prague Structuralists, and the Bakhtin group (e.g., defamiliarization, aesthetic sign, dialogue) with similar or analogous notions drawn from Western intellectual tradition.
Taught by: Steiner, P.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SLAV 575
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 580 Introduction to Bibliography
This course offers an introduction to the principles of descriptive and analytic bibliography and textual editing. The history of authorship, manuscript production, printing, publishing, and reading will be addressed as they inform an understanding of how a particular text came to be the way it is. Diverse theories of editing will be studied and put into practice with short passages. The course is generally suitable for students working in any historical period, but particular emphases specified in the current offerings on the English website. www/english.upenn.edu
Course offered fall; even-numbered years
Also Offered As: ENGL 574, HIST 574
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 581 The Essay Film
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 592, ENGL 592
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 582 Topics in Aesthetics
This is a topics course. Please see the Comparative Literature website for descriptions.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ARTH 560, GRMN 580, PHIL 480
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 584 Topics in Jewish-German Culture
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Jewish history. The instructors are visiting scholars at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 581
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 586 Topics in Twentieth Century Art
This seminar will examine the ideas of a number of influential theorists in a variety of disciplines who have contributed to the ways in which we understand and evaluate art. A tentative and flexible list includes: Kant, Denis, Fry, Greenberg, Schapiro, de Bord, Derrida, Lacan, Kristeva, Baudrillard.
Taught by: Poggi
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 586
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 589 Fantastic Literatures in 19th and 20th Centuries
This course will explore fantasy and the fantastic in short tales of 19th- and 20th-century French literature. A variety of approaches – thematic, psychoanalytic, cultural, narratological – will be used in an attempt to test their viability and define the subversive force of a literary mode that contributes to shedding light on the dark side of the human psyche by interrogating the “real,” making visible the unseen and articulating the unsaid. Such broad categories as distortions of space and time, reason and madness, order and disorder, sexual transgressions, self and other will be considered. Readings will include “recits fantastiques” by Merime, Gautier, Nerval, Maupassant, Breton, Mandiargues, Jean Ray and others.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 582
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 590 Recent Issues in Critical Theory
This course is a critical exploration of recent literary and cultural theory, usually focusing on one particular movement or school, such as phenomenology, psychoanalysis, the Frankfurt School, or deconstruction.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 590, GRMN 585, GSWS 589, LALS 590
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 592 Topics in Contemporary Theory
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 591, CIMS 592, ENGL 592
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.
COML 593 Modern and Contemporary Italian Culture
This is a topics course. One topic may be "Futurism, Classicism, Fascism" or "Philology and History." Please see the Comparative Literature website for the description.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 581
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 594 Topics in Contemporary Art
Topics vary. Please see the Comparative Literature and Literary Theory website at http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/.
Taught by: Silverman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 594, ENGL 797
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 596 Introduction to Francophone Studies
An introduction to major literary movements and authors from five areas of Francophonie: the Maghreb, West Africa, Central Africa, the Caribbean and Quebec.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 590
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 597 Modern Drama
This course will survey several basic approaches to analyzing dramatic literature and the theatre. The dramatic event will be broken into each of its Aristotelian components for separate attention and analysis: Action (plot), Character, Language, Thought, Music and Spectacle. Several approaches to analysing the dramatic text will be studied: phenomenological, social-psychological, semiotic, and others.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 597
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 600 Graduate Latin Poetry
Spring 2013: Exploration of selected themes in Vergil's works, with an emphasis on aspects that have been particularly important in recent research. Some of these include intertextuality within the epic tradition and between epic and tragedy; philosophical and particularly ethical approaches to literature; discourse theory as it relates to expressions of dissent.
Taught by: Farrell
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LATN 602
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 601 Topics Medieval Studies
An interdisciplinary course, it will utilize practices to "read" the ways specific texts produce sexuality at the same time as it will examine the relation between discourses and the material and political worlds in which those discourses are spoken. We will examine the role sexuality plays in the languages of Imperialism and in the sexualization of political rhetoric. The course will explore theoretical approaches to sexuality (and its discursive construction) proposed by Freud, Foucault, Sander Gilman, Gayle Rubin, Teresa de Lauretis, Mary Douglas, and examine a broad range of "primary materials" from eighteenth-century novels and pornography to nineteenth-century sexology to current feminist and political debates.
Taught by: Copeland
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CLST 618, ENGL 524
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 602 Tools of the Trade
Theoretical and practical aspects of academic research.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 602
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 605 Anthropology of Music
Topics may include the intellectual history of ethnomusicology, current readings in ethnomusicology, a consideration of theoretical principles based upon the reading and interpretation of selected monographs, and area studies.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ANTH 605, FOLK 605, MUSC 605
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 606 Ancient Literary Theory
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 705, GREK 602
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 607 Contemporary Drama
Sometimes taught as a survey of modern and contemporary drama, this course can also focus on a particular issue such as the politics of Western theatre, gender and performativity, or postmodernity in the dramatic arts.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 776
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 608 Global France
Please see the Comparative Literature website for description.
Taught by: Richman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 609
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 609 Italian Literary Theory
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 601
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 618 Cultural History of Medieval Rus’ (800-1700)
COML 618 offers an overview of the literary, cultural, and political history of Medieval Rus’ from its origins up to the Petrine reign (early 18th century), the period that laid the foundation for the Russian Empire. The focus of the course is on the Kievan and Muscovite traditions but we also look at the cultural space of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Poland (the territory of today’s Belarus and Ukraine). The course takes a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the evolution of the main cultural paradigms of Russian Orthodoxy viewed in a broader European context (vis-a-vis Byzantium and the Latin West). We learn about the worldview of medieval Orthodox Slavs by examining their religion, ritual, spirituality, art, music, literature, education, and popular culture. Classes are conducted in English. Readings are in Russian and English. English translations of primary sources are available for those with no or limited Russian competence.
Taught by: Verkholantsev
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 628, ENGL 721
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 620 Semester in 18th Century Literature
This course varies in its emphases, but in recent years has explored the theory of narrative both from the point of view of eighteenth-century novelists and thinkers as well as from the perspective of contemporary theory. Specific attention is paid to issues of class, gender, and ideology. Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ENGL 748, FREN 660
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 621 Topics in European History
Reading and Discussion course on selected topics in European History.
Taught by: Verkholantsev
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HIST 620, RUSS 618
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 622 Postmodernism
An advanced seminar on postmodernist culture. Recently offered as a study of relationship between poetry and theory in contemporary culture, with readings in poststructuralist, feminist, marxist, and postcolonial theory and in poets of the Black Mountain and Language groups.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 774
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 623 Literary History and Aesthetics in South Asia
This seminar surveys the multiple components of literary culture in South Asia. Students will engage critically with selected studies of literary history and aesthetics from the past two millennia. In order to introduce students to specific literary cultures (classical, regional, contemporary) and to the scholarly practices that situate literature in broader contexts of culture and society, the course will focus both on the literary theories - especially from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries - that position South Asia’s literary cultures within broader disciplinary frameworks that use literary documents to inform social, historical and cultural research projects. The aim is to open up contexts whereby students can develop their own research projects using literary sources.
Taught by: Patel
Also Offered As: SAST 623
Activity: Seminar

COML 625 Global Perspectives in French Studies
This course explores the literal and literary landscapes of 19th-century Paris and Philadelphia, paying particular attention to the ways in which the built environment is shaped by and shapes shifting ideologies in the modern age. Although today the luxury and excesses of the "City of Light" may seem worlds apart from the Quaker simplicity of the "City of Brotherly Love," Paris and Philadelphia saw themselves as partners and mutual referents during the 1800s in many areas, from urban planning to politics, prisons to paleontology. This interdisciplinary seminar will include readings from the realms of literature, historical geography, architectural history, and cultural studies as well as site visits to Philadelphia landmarks, with a view to uncovering overlaps and resonances among different ways of reading the City. We will facilitate in-depth research by students on topics relating to both French and American architectural history, literature, and cultural thought.
Taught by: Goulet/Wunsch
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 620, HSPV 620
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 627 South Asia Literature as Comparative Literature
The extent to which the narrative reflexes of the novel can accommodate and express the nature of human work are explored primarily in a study of two nineteenth-century writers. Eliot and Hardy. Reading for the course also includes novels and short stories of other nineteenth-century writers (Dickens, Zola, tolstoy, Stowe, Melville), and background reading on the social and philosophic theory of work.
Taught by: Goulding
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SAST 627
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 628 Studies in Spanish Middle Ages
This is a topics course. Topics will vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 630
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 630 Introduction to Medieval Literature
Topics vary. Previous topics include The Grail and the Rose, Literary Genres and Transformations, and Readings in Old French Texts. Please see the department’s website for current course description:
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: FREN 630, ITAL 630
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 631 Medieval Allegory
For the Middle Ages, allegory represents a nexus of literary history
and textual theory, hermeneutics and theology, intellectual history and
education, and theories of history and the transmission of culture.
Through medieval allegorical practices we see some of the deepest
continuities with ancient hermeneutical thought and also some of the
most radical ruptures with the ancient past. Allegory, in other words, was
as crucial and charged a term for medieval culture as for contemporary
thought. Allegory is at once a trope, that is, a specific and delimited form,
and an all-encompassing interpretive system. It will be the purpose of this
seminar to try to articulate the connections between that particular form
and that general system by examining medieval allegory in its various
literary and philosophical contexts. Our focus will be the 12th through
the early 15th centuries in both the vernacular and Latin, with attention
to late antique philosophical and theological foundations. We will also
incorporate readings from various modern perspective on the history and
theory of allegory.
Taught by: Copeland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 630, ENGL 715
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 632 Dante's Commedia
A close reading of the Inferno, Purgatorio and the Paradiso which focuses
on a series of interrelated problems raised by the poem: authority,
representation, history, politics, and language. Particular attention will
be given to Dante’s use of Classical and Christian model texts: Ovid's
Metamorphoses, Virgil’s Aeneid, and the Bible. Dante's rewritings of
model authors will also be studied in the context of the medieval Italian
and Provencal love lyric.
Taught by: Brownlee
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ITAL 631
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 634 Reading Modernity
In this course we will examine Modernism and the avant-garde as
concepts in literature, theater, and criticism. Both terms in the seminar
title will be significant to our work, as we ask not only how to define
and debate "modernity" today, but also how to understand various
notions of "reading" and cultural analysis that emerge during the period
and live on in various ways today. In addition, we will take account of
important technological, social, and economic developments marking
modernity, focusing our attention on the ways in which they intersect
and interact with cultural production, cultural politics, and perception
itself. Readings will include key texts by representative authors, including
Benjamin, Kafka, Barthes, Kracauer, Brecht, Adorno, Baudelaire, Eliot,
Woolf, and others. The final section of the course is concerned with
contemporary debates surrounding Modernism's relation to Fascism and
the juxtaposition of Modernism and Postmodernism.
Course offered spring; even-numbered years
Also Offered As: GRMN 672
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 637 Shakespeare
An advanced seminar, usually focused on Shakespeare, treating the
literature and culture of the late 16th- and early 17th-centuries.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 735
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 638 Topics: Medieval Culture
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 638, MUSC 710
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Topics will vary each term.

COML 640 Studies in the Spanish Renaissance
Topics of discussion will vary from semester to semester. Selections
from the works of Santillana, Mena, Rojas, Garcilaso, Juan and Alfonso
del Valdes, Leon Hebreo, Juan de la Cruz, Luis de Leon, and the
"preceptistas." Please see the Comparative Literature website for the
current topic, http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 640
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 641 Studies in Italian Renaissance
Renaissance Italian society, art, intellectual and political history.
Advanced level course.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ITAL 640
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 642 Drama of the Twentieth Century
Based on a discussion of the relationship of drama (text) and theater
(performance), the course examines the development of realistic and
antirealistic currents in modern German drama. From Wedekind and
Expressionism to Piscator's political theater, Brecht's epic theater and
beyond (Horvath, Fleisser, Frisch, Duerrenmatt, Handke).
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 642
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 643 Studies in the Renaissance
Topics vary. Previous topics have included Rabelais and M. de Navarre, Montaigne, and Renaissance and Counter-Renaissance. Please see department's website for current course description:
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 640
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 651 Studies in 17th Century
Topics of discussion will vary from semester to semester. One possible topic is "The Royal Machine: Louis XIV and the Versailles Era." We will examine certain key texts of what is known as the Golden Age of French literature in tandem with a number of recent theoretical texts that could be described as historical. Our goal will be to explore the basis of "the new historicism," a term that is designed to cover a variety of critical systems that try to account for the historical specificity and referentiality of literary texts.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: FREN 650, GRMN 651
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 654 History, Memory, Trauma
This course will be devoted to study of the theory and practice of representation of the past in major European traditions during the modern era, with special emphasis on three topics of broad concern: revolution, genocide, and national becoming. The object of inquiry will be construed broadly, to include all manner of historiographic, artistic, filmic, literary and rhetorical representation of the past. Each of the three segments of the course will begin with examination of important theoretical readings in conjunction with case studies in major European traditions that have been among the central foci of this theoretical work (French Revolutionary history, Holocaust, English nationalism).
Next we will add analogous Russian cases to the picture (Russian Revolution, Gulag memory, Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great as national myths). Finally, at the conclusion of each segment students will bring theoretical tools to bear on the national traditions and contexts relevant to their own work.
Our readings in the theory and philosophy of historiography will include works by: Anderson, Caruth, Guha, Hegel, LaCapra, Putnam, Ricoeur, White and others.
Taught by: Platt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SLAV 655
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 662 Theories of Myth
Theories of myth are the center of modern and post-modern, structural and post-structural thought. Myth has served as a vehicle and a metaphor for the formulation of a broad range of modern theories. In this course we will examine the theoretical foundations of these approaches to myth focusing on early thinkers such as Vico, and concluding with modern 20th century scholars in several disciplines that make myth the central idea of their studies.
Taught by: Ben-Amos
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FOLK 629, NELC 683, RELS 605
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 669 Nineteenth Century Studies
Topics may include "Modernity and Early Nineteenth-Century French Culture," "Lit and Culture in fin-de-Siecle."
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: FREN 670
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 670 German Literary Criticism
Topics will vary. In the past, courses have concentrated on Walter Benjamin's work, and "The Frankfurt School and After." 
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 670, GRMN 670
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 674 Topics in Aesthetic Theory
This is a topics course. The topics may be "Benjamin and Arendt," "Walter Benjamin," "Kant to Frankfurt School," "Literature and Visuality," or "Imagination and Ideology," or "Modernity Style/Fashion."
Taught by: Weissberg/MacLeod
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: ARTH 674, GRMN 674
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 676 Topics in Feminist Theory
The seminar will provide a survey of recent feminist theories, and a discussion of literary texts focusing on issues of gender, race, and class.
The reading list will include essays by French, English, and American theorists as well as novels by Bachmann, Wolf, and Jelinek.
Taught by: Weissberg
Course offered fall; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: GRMN 676
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 680 Topics: Literature and Film
This is a topics course. Please see the Comparative Literature website for description.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 682, GSWS 682, ITAL 682
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 682 Seminar on Literary Theory
Topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 571, SPAN 682
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 683 Topics in Comparative Literature and Theory
Seminars on modernism are usually taught within a single geographic area, cultural tradition, period, language, medium, and disciplinary framework. Yet modernism was a border-crossing phenomenon, and it may productively be studied as such. A recent turn toward global and transnational paradigms is one of the few traits shared by modernist studies across multiple disciplines. "Modernisms Across Borders" one of the topics studied, will take advantage of this commonality among diverse sites of inquiry, treating modernism as a transborder phenomenon while also probing the limitations and still-latent potential of such an approach.
Taught by: Platt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 783, SLAV 683
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 685 Literary Criticism and Theory in Japanese Literature
While the focus of this seminar will shift from year to year, the aim is to enable students to gain 1) a basic understanding of various theoretical approaches to literature, 2) familiarity with the histories and conventions of criticism, literary and otherwise, in Japan, 3) a few theoretical tools to think in complex ways about some of the most interesting and controversial issues of today, such as nationalism, imperialism, colonialism, postmodernism, and feminism, with particular focus on Japan’s position in the world. The course is primarily intended for graduate students but is also open to advanced undergraduates with permission of the instructor. The course is taught in English, and all of the readings will be available in English translation. An optional discussion section may be arranged for those students who are able and willing to read and discuss materials in Japanese.
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 755
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 687 The Spanish Connection
Topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 687
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 688 Twentieth Century Art: 1945-Now
Many people experience the art of our time as bewildering, shocking, too ordinary (my kid could do that), too intellectual (elitist), or simply not as art. Yet what makes this art engaging is that it raises the question of what art is or can be, employs a range of new materials and technologies, and addresses previously excluded audiences. It invades non-art spaces, blurs the boundaries between text and image, document and performance, asks questions about institutional frames (the museum, gallery, and art journal), and generates new forms of criticism. Much of the “canon” of what counts as important is still in flux, especially for the last twenty years. And the stage is no longer centered only on the United States and Europe, but is becoming increasingly global. The course will introduce students to the major movements and artists of the post-war period, with emphasis on social and historical context, critical debates, new media, and the changing role of the spectator/participant.
Taught by: Poggi/Silverman
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Recitation
1 Course Unit

COML 691 Studies in Latin American Literature
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: LALS 690, SPAN 690
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. One topic may be “Literature and the Arts in the Age of Globalization.”

COML 692 Colonial Literature of Spanish American
Study of the historical context of the colonial period in Spanish America and of major works in prose and poetry.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 692
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 694 Spanish and Latin American Cinema
Topics vary from year to year.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 694
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 696 Postcolonial Theory in Francophone Contexts
This seminar will introduce students to key texts and influential figures coming from, focusing on, or relevant to Francophone postcolonial contexts. Following a brief review of Anglophone postcolonial criticism, readings for the course will fall under three categories: Authors from the 1940s to present who have focused exclusively on (post)colonial issues pertaining to Africa, the Caribbean and/or postcolonial France; contemporary European, African and North American literary critics; humanities scholars whose work would not necessarily be labeled “postcolonial” but is nevertheless relevant to postcolonial criticism.
Taught by: Moudileno
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFST 696, FREN 696
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 697 Studies in Latin American Culture
This is a topics course. The topic will vary each semester.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SPAN 697
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 700 African Literature and Society
An advanced seminar in anglophone African literature, possibly including a few works in translation.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ENGL 775
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 708 Cultural and Literary Theory of Africa and the African Diaspora
This course introduces students to the theoretical strategies underlying the construction of coherent communities and systems of representation and how those strategies influence the uses of expressive culture over time.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 708, ENGL 775, FREN 700
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 710 Political Economy and Social History of Africa and the African Diaspora
This course provides the opportunity for students to investigate the relationship between the emergence of African peoples as historical subjects and their location within specific geopolitical and economic circumstances.
Taught by: Hanchard
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 710, LALS 710
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 714 Medieval Literature
This is a topics course. The topic may be "Women and Writing, 1220-1689," "Denationalizing the English Middle Ages," or "Anglo-French Literatures." or "Gloss and Commentary."
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 610, ENGL 715, FREN 635
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 715 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
Topics in Ethnomusicology.
Taught by: Muller
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: FOLK 715, GSWS 705, MUSC 705
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 720 Studies in Renaissance Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the Renaissance.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: MUSC 720
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 725 Topics in Chaucer
Please see the Comparative Literature and Literary Theory website for topics: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/Complit/.
Taught by: Wallace
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 725
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 730 Topics in 16th-Century History and Culture
This is an advanced course treating topics in 16th Century history and culture particular emphasis varying with instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 730
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 734 Renaissance Drama
This is a topics course. For Spring 2015, the topic is Genre and Performative Media.
Taught by: Bushnell
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 734
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 736 Renaissance Studies
This is an advanced topics course treating some important issues in contemporary Renaissance studies.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 736
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 750 Romanticism in Italy
This course is an advanced seminar on writings of the Romantic period, not restricted to English Romanticism.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 750
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 755 Victorian Literature
An advanced seminar in Victorian Fiction.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 754
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 761 British Modernism
This course treats one or more of the strains of British modernism in fiction, poetry, or the arts.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 761
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 766 Topics in 20th Century English Literature
Topics vary from year to year. An advanced seminar treating a specific topic o Literature and Culture.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 765
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course. If the title is "Modernism and the Philosophy of Egoism," the following description applies.

COML 767 Modernism
An interdisciplinary and international examination of modernism, usually treating European as well as British and American modernists. The topics may be "The Hard and Soft in Modernism," "The Technical Sublime," "Global Literature and Theory," or "Effects of Modernity."
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 773
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 769 Feminist Theory
Specific topic varies. The seminar will bring together the study of early modern English literature and culture with histories and theories of gender, sexuality and race. Contact with 'the East' (Turkey, the Moluccas, North Africa and India) and the West (the Americas and the Caribbean) reshaped attitudes to identity and desire. How does this history allow us to understand, and often interrogate, modern theories of desire and difference? Conversely, how do postcolonial and other contemporary perspectives allow us to re-read this past?
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 769, GSWS 769
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
COML 773 Afro-American Autobiography
An advanced seminar in African-American literature and culture.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 770, ENGL 770
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 778 Twentieth Century Aesthetics
This course explores notions that have conditioned 20th century attitudes toward beauty: among them, ornament, form, fetish, the artifact "women", the moves to 20th century fiction, art manifestos, theory, and such phenomena as beauty contests and art adjudications.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 778, GSWS 778
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 780 Seminar in Theory
Seminar on selected topics in music theory and analysis.
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: MUSC 780
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 786 Topics in 20th Century Art
Topics vary from year to year.
Taught by: Poggi
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 786, ITAL 685
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 787 Topics in Contemporary Art
Topics vary each semester.
Taught by: Silverman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 794, ENGL 778
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 790 Recent Issues in Critical Theory
Course varies with instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 790, GRMN 690, GSWS 790
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: This is a topics course.

COML 791 Topics in 20th Century Culture
Usually focusing on non-fictional texts, this course varies in its emphasis depending on the instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 797
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 795 Poetics
Topics in poetics will vary in its emphasis depending on the instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 795
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

COML 998 Independent Study and Research
Designed to allow students to pursue a particular research topic under the close supervision of an instructor.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

COML 999 Independent Reading and Research
May be taken for multiple course credit to a maximum of two for the M.A. and four for the Ph.D. Designed to allow students to broaden and deepen their knowledge of literary theory, a national literature, and/or an area of special interest.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit