**Introduction to World Literature** – Study of outstanding works of fiction, plays, and poems from European, North and South American, African, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and Middle-Eastern parts of the world through a different theme every semester. Focus on questions of culture, class, gender, colonialism, and on the role of translation.

**Short Fiction**: This introductory comparative literature course looks at the form, function and history of short fiction in modern Western literature. We’ll consider how the novella, the short story, and flash fiction work with an eye to identifying the literary devices and narrative structures that make for good storytelling in a short amount of space.

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**Short Fiction** – Study of various genres of short fiction, in English translation, by some of the most important writers in world literature. Course themes focus on the city, the nation, migration and exile, colonialism, science fiction, the fantastic, magical realism, horror, mystery, among others.

**World Mythology** – Story, structure, and meaning in myths of many cultures. Myth as a primary literary phenomenon, with some attention to anthropological and psychological perspectives.

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**Literature Across Borders: Translation/Transformation** – This course is an introduction to the field of Comparative Literature, and is required of all majors and minors. In Spring 2020 the theme will be “translation/transformation.” From Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to today's science fiction, creative thinkers and artists have sought to depict bodies in the act of becoming different bodies. This course will survey such changes of form over the centuries and across the globe, focusing especially on passages between languages, genres, media, and/or species. by looking at a wide range of works from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* to current science fiction.

**Masterworks of World Literature** - This course will familiarize students with major works of world literature from a variety of literary traditions, Western and non-Western, modern and ancient as well as provide methods of studying literature in its historical and cultural contexts. It will focus on a number of topics including the roles of class, gender, politics, time, identity, and translation. All texts read in translation.

**Intro to Middle Eastern Literatures** - This is a survey course designed to introduce students to the literatures of the region known as the Middle East, from ancient to modern times. The main literary genres we will cover are epic, scripture, belles-lettres, chronicle, essay, the modern novel and short story, the ode and lyric poetry. Documentary films will also be shown during class.

**Detective Stories** – Mystery story, detective fiction, whodunit, police story, crime story... All these labels point to a new, singular form of narrative that crystallized during the nineteenth century and has since permeated modern literature and film. Through the close reading of a number of major works of fiction from different cultural origins, we will examine what makes detective stories a distinct type of literature, and explore historical, philosophical and political implications of its emergence and evolution.

**Animals and Humans** – This course will explore literature and films that address how animals and humans relate to each other at different times and places around the world. Students will learn about key concepts in Animal Studies, such as multispecies communities, companion species, hybridity, and the intersection of animality with race, gender, and class.
Introduction to the Literatures of South Asia - This course introduces students to the literature of the Indian subcontinent, which is situated within the broader region of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). It surveys a selection of translated texts in various Indian languages from the classical to the postcolonial periods and explores a range of genres such as the epic, drama, poetry, essay writing, the short story, the novel, and film.

Introduction to Mythology – Myths of various cultures; their structures and functions in social and especially literary contexts.

Introduction to Mythology – Myths are stories that, for millennia, human communities have used to explain central aspects of life in relation to broader ideas and questions—whether historical, political, or religious. This course draws together myth and literature, and focuses primarily on how texts relate to, help building, or question different mythologies. We will read and discuss several short stories and novels, so as to understand how myths have been used in the past, why they are still relevant today, and in what ways they affect everyday life, culture, and society.

Online

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Fairy Tales Then and Now – This course analyzes the structure, meaning, and function of fairy tales and their enduring influence on literature and popular culture. While we will concentrate on the German context, and in particular on the works of the Brothers Grimm, we also will consider fairy tales drawn from a number of different national traditions and historical periods, including the American present.

Psy-Fi: Literature and Psychoanalysis - Origins and major concepts of psychoanalysis explored through a close analysis of Freud’s writings with a particular focus on their literary dimension. The course seeks not simply to apply Freud to literature but moreover to see how psychoanalytic thinking itself might be enriched and expanded by our approaching it through works of art, literature and cinema.

Major French Writers in Translation: Global Eighteenth Century - In this course we explore how French writers of the long 18th Century reacted to encounters with the peoples of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. At the same time we will examine writings from these other places, which for the most part had not yet experienced significant European literary influence. Taught in English.

Major French Writers in Translation: Literature and Desire - The course considers the role of desire in literature and film — in reference to the theories of Freud, Bataille, Jung and others — as Eros, as humor, as myth, as sacrifice, and as a component in the theory of surrealism. Taught in English.

Major French Writers in Translation: Montaigne - We will read only one work in this course: Michel de Montaigne’s Essays, a one-of-a-kind endeavor that inaugurated the writing genre called “essai” in French and “essay” in English. An aristocrat very much of his own time is by far the most widely read writer of the French Renaissance today: his book keeps “speaking” to each of us somehow. Accordingly, the point of our course will not just be to read the work and watch its author “test” himself; but to “test” and understand our own responses in turn. Taught in English.

Introducing Italy City by City: Naples, Tales of a Southern City - Famous today for the television series Gomorrah and Elena Ferrante’s novels, Naples consists of an amazing array of superimposed cultures extending over 25 centuries of history, from the tenth century BCE, when the Greeks established a settlement called Neapolis (new city), to the subsequent centuries, when Romans, Normans, Spanish, Austrian, and French dynasties ruled the city. This course analyzes the often stridently contradictory representations of the city — the stereotypes and the realities — through literature, history, the visual arts, and music, examining the ways in which Naples ultimately became a quintessential metaphor of the European South.
Introduction to Caribbean Literature – A study of the Caribbean as a distinctive and complex world area, with a focus on major authors, themes, and literary movements that have emerged in the context of a region shaped by the experiences of colonialism, slavery, and indentured servitude.

Past Today – The great American novelist William Faulkner famously said, "The past is not dead. It's not even past." Focusing on three current conflicts from disparate cultures, the course looks to literature, film, and other visual arts, as well as architecture and music to ask why some conflicts endure despite the enormous political, technological, cultural and economic changes of the past several decades.

Textual Transformations - Who is a translator and what comprises a translation? Apart from readings on translation practice and theory, this course includes a practice-based component through which you will have a chance to explore creatively your own approach to translation. You will undertake a short translation of any work (fiction or non-fiction) with which you feel a personal connection.

Latino and Caribbean Culture Studies - A comparative study of Latino and Caribbean cultures by reviewing key definitions of culture, paying attention to the historical and disciplinary development of the term, as well as key debates on cultural studies in the Humanities.

Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures and Theories – In this course we will discuss, through the lens of theories of postcolonialism and decoloniality, major texts from four nations: Indonesia, India, Senegal, and Guatemala, paying particular attention to the role of nation and national culture, language, education, and law in constructing the identities of both colonized peoples and contemporary people in postcolonial nations struggling to decolonize their identities.

From Dostoevsky to The Wire: Serial Storytelling Across Media - This course explores serial narrative as a contemporary mode of storytelling, from the emergence of the serialized novel in nineteenth-century Britain and Russia up through the multimedia serials of our own digital age. Working across centuries, media, and new technologies for delivery, we will investigate the enduring power of this versatile narrative form – in particular, how serial narratives interweave fiction with current events and the shared rhythms of everyday life, and how they address international audiences shaped by cultural, social, and geographic differences.

The Literatures of the Americas - This course offers a comparative study of the literatures of the Americas from the nineteenth century to the present. We will read a range of novels, stories, essays and poems written in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, a number of which were originally published in Spanish. Beginning with nineteenth-century expressions of cultural autonomy from Europe, the course will trace the development of major literary trends in the Americas, paying particular attention to the relationship between the novel and the modern history of the western hemisphere.

Brazil and the U.S. - The purpose of this interdisciplinary, cross-cultural course is to consider new paradigms for a global concept of race that transcends U.S. binary categories as well as Brazilian and Latin American triumphant versions of mestizaje. We will discuss processes of racial mixing and cultural exchange as they have been articulated in fiction and theory by Brazilian intellectuals, in contrast to U.S. writers.

Women Writers of Africa – This course is a survey of writings by women from a variety of cultural, linguistic, and regional areas of Africa and the Diaspora. It focuses on the imaginative works of African women, exploring the socio-cultural and political landscapes that have shaped their works, and how their works, in turn, are a reflection of the (pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial) conditions of their production.

Kafka and World Literature - The course will provide an introduction to Kafka's work and its impact on world literature. Kafka's texts constitute a new level and quality of literature that has triggered innumerable responses in many languages, media, and discourses. He is generally recognized as an "international" author of a new type of "world literature." While the quality of the work is clear, it nevertheless tends to defy all attempts to approach it through traditional means of interpretation. In an effort to forge new ways of addressing the challenges posed by Kafka's work, the course seeks to locate it in a number of related contexts: at the crossroads of European modernity; within debates about Jewish languages, culture, identity, and music in the early twentieth-century and beyond; at the center of current controversies concerning the politically charged notion of "minor literature"; and perhaps most importantly as the source of inspiration for new works of art, literature,
Issues in Comparative Literature: Nabokov - This course explores the world and works of the Russian and American writer Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977). As Nabokov taught his students, “great novels are great fairy tales.” We will read his novels with an eye to the spells they cast and how they cast them. Beginning with Nabokov’s Russian-language Berlin period (short stories and one novel, The Luzhin Defense), we’ll go on to a selection of his major English-language novels: Lolita, Pnin, and Pale Fire. We will also read Nabokov’s luminous autobiography, Speak, Memory.

Special Topics in Comparative Literature: Faust and the Fracturing of Tradition - Faust, in Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s drama, is every university’s worst nightmare. Frustrated that his multiple academic degrees have left him knowing nothing of value, the aging scholar goes rogue: he gives up standard research for magic; he flees his study with the devil to go out and party; he uses his status to help him impress and seduce a much younger woman; he heads off on a world tour without regard to those he encounters or has left behind; and he becomes a capricious and dangerous tyrant.

In this seminar we will examine both Part I and Part II of Goethe’s work, as well as historical sources, to consider first some questions about the Faust legend: how did this legend become the quintessential myth of modernity? What does Faust, in the various iterations of this legend, experience and learn by selling his soul? Is his story a celebration or a condemnation of the modern age of discovery – research, teaching, learning and self-exploration?

Special Topics in Comparative Literature: Urban Encounters in Literature and Art - This course examines the construction of an urban imagination through the works of writers and artists in postcolonial India, with an emphasis on the ways in which they engaged with the changing nature of the cities they called home. We will critically evaluate concepts and ideas such as the cosmic city, the authoritative city, the collective city, the global city, and the mega city. Using methodologies drawn from a range of disciplines - including literary criticism, art history, geography, and performance studies - the course will examine the city as a space that emerges from its multiple encounters. Topics and themes to be covered will include urban form, ecology, religion, migration, displacements, alternative cartographies, and sexuality as expressed, represented and enacted through literature, visual arts, and the built environment.

Special Topics in Comparative Literature: Gender and Sexuality in Russian Literature - In this course we study questions of gender and sexuality in modern Russian literature and culture through close readings of novellas, short stories, poems, films, essays, and memoirs. How have gender and sexuality been constructed in different periods of Russian history? What erotic utopias did radical thinkers propose? How did Soviet ideology build on traditional myths and images of femininity and masculinity? How have gay and lesbian love been represented, given the enduring presence of cultural taboos? We will broaden our study through encounters with influential theoretical and critical texts, both inside and outside the Russian tradition. All readings and discussion in English.