Fall 2020 Courses in Literature and Culture taught in English and open to all students!

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is pleased to offer in Fall 2020 many undergraduate courses in English. They include Freshman Seminars; topics courses in literature, film, culture, and thought; and courses in linguistics and communication. For most, no specific language background is required. They draw on faculty expertise across the seven languages our department offers: German, modern Hebrew and Yiddish, and the four most commonly taught Romance languages (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish). All courses listed below fulfill the H requirement and are taught on Homewood.

**Freshman Seminars**

AS.211.231 **Planet Amazonia: Culture, History, and the Environment**
Bedran, Marina  
TTh 10:30 -11:45AM

Without Amazonia, global warming could reach levels that threaten life on the planet. Yet, in an era of deforestation and climate change, Amazonia itself might be on the verge of disappearance. This interdisciplinary exploration of Amazonia draws on works from history, anthropology, archeology, environmental studies, literature, and the arts. What importance does Amazonia hold for Latin American and global geopolitics? How do artworks and literature, including indigenous writings, create, reinforce, or deconstruct clichés about the region? What alternative futures for our planet can Amazonia help us to imagine?

AS.211.249 **Love, Sex and Death in the Renaissance**
Stephens, Walter  
TTh 10:30 -11:45AM

Renaissance short stories and theater explore human relations in ways that are often realistic yet depict societies very different from our own. We will explore a variety of works by Dante, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, and other classic Italian authors, examining their influence on other authors, particularly Shakespeare and Milton.  
*This course fulfills the W requirement*

AS.211.294 **Soccer in Brazil: Opium of the Masses**
Azeredo Cerqueira, Flávia  
MW 1:30 - 2:45PM

*Futebol* offers a unique perspective on politics, race and citizenship in Brazil. This course seeks to understand Brazilian culture through the historic national pastime of futebol. In addition to the main textbooks chosen for the class, by reading a variety of texts from newspapers, academic journals, fiction and film, students will be able to find their own approach to understanding the phenomenon.
Upper-Level Topics Courses

AS.211.224 Made in Italy: Italian Style in Context
Proietti, Leonardo
MW 3:00PM-4:15PM

Italy and the "Italian style" are synonymous with exquisite taste, elegance, and fine craftsmanship. This course will explore factors that contributed to the rise of Italian fashion and industrial design. We will focus on the protagonists and art movements that influenced the development of Italian style. Trends will be analyzed not only in historical context but also through a critical apparatus that relates style to gender, power,

AS.211.265 Panorama of German Thought
Tobias, Rochelle
WF 12:00-1:15PM

This course introduces major figures and trends in German literature and thought from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation to the foundation of the German Federal Republic after WWII. How did Reformation affect the understanding of the state, rights, and institutions in Germany? How did Enlightenment thinkers conceive of ethics and politics, morality and rights? How have German writers’ defined nation and community? What is the link between romanticism and nationalism? To what degree was Marx’s political economy a response to romanticism? How did German thinkers conceive of power in the wake of World Wars?

AS.211.333 Representing the Holocaust
Spinner, Samuel
W 1:30-4:00PM

How has the Holocaust been represented in literature and film? Are there special challenges posed by genocide to the traditions of visual and literary representation? Where do art and literature fit in to the commemoration of communal tragedy and the working through of individual trauma? These questions will guide our consideration of a range of texts originally written in Yiddish, German, English, French and other languages (including works by Primo Levi and Isaac Bashevis Singer), as well as documentary and fiction films (from Alain Resnais to Steven Spielberg).

AS.211.360 Franco-American Relations
Wuensch, April
TTh 1:30-2:45PM

Historical allies, yet rivals in trade; partners in intellectual exchange, yet baffled by each other’s culture: in this course we will examine core elements of the relationship between France & the US through the lens of diplomacy, commerce, language, food, cinema, the arts, friendship, feminism, parenting, ethnicity, health, climate change, and social justice. Students will develop and exercise critical thinking habits while working toward a deeper cross-cultural understanding of France and the U.S. Interactions between the two countries will be considered as a significant model of international relations.
AS.211.362 **Critical Knowledges: Black, Feminist, Postcolonial, Queer and Other**
Nitis, Maya  
M 1:30 - 4:00PM

Is it clear what “knowledge” means? Does it have the same meaning historically, across different academic disciplines and in daily life? Rather than posing questions about the nature of knowledge explored in the branch of philosophy known as epistemology, this course proposes a minoritized critical inquiry into the matter of knowledge/s, through feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives. Understanding knowledge as unfinished rather than universal enables consequential dialogue to take place, one that rather than focusing on judgments opens out onto the ideas of others. *This course fulfills the W requirement.*

AS.211.429 **Religion and the Literary Text: The Case of Modern Hebrew Literature**
Stahl, Neta  
TTh 10:30 - 11:45AM

In its early days, Modern Hebrew literature attempted to break from the traditional modes of Jewish intellectual and social life while offering a secular understanding of the Jewish literary text. At the same time as they defied Orthodoxy and rejected the old Hebrew God, these writers maintained a vital dialogue with the divine and bore the influence of Kabbalah and Hasidism. In reading modern Hebrew and Israeli literary texts, we will examine such religious concepts such as prophesy, pantheism, theodicy, and the apocalypse, against the backdrop of events in modern Jewish history like the emergence of Jewish nationalism and Zionism, the Holocaust and the establishment of the state of Israel.

**Linguistics and Communication**

AS.211.259 **Introduction to Medical and Mental Health Interpreting**
Zannirato, Alessandro  
MW 3:00 - 4:15PM

An introduction to the fields of medical and mental health interpreting. Modules will include: (1) Three-way communication: managing role expectations and interpersonal dynamics; (2) Basic interpreting skills and techniques in a healthcare setting; (3) Ethical principles, dilemmas, and confidentiality; (4) Elements of medical interpreting; (5) Elements of mental health interpreting; (6) Trauma-informed interpreting: serving the refugee population.

AS.211.311 **Introduction to Romance Linguistics**
Anderson, Bruce  
MWF 11:00 - 11:50AM

If the modern Romance languages all evolved from Latin, why do they differ in so many important ways? What drives language change in the first place? In what areas do the modern Romance languages, and languages in general, differ the most? We approach these questions not only from the perspective of Romance sound systems, vocabulary, morphosyntax, and semantics), but from a cognitive-psychological and a socio-political perspective as well. Students will create linguistic questionnaires, use them to conduct native speaker interviews, analyze the data, and present their findings as part of an end-of-semester colloquium. *This course has a prerequisite. Students need to have completed ONE of the following intermediate-level courses in a Romance language or equivalent: AS.210.202, AS.210.212, AS.210.252 or AS.210.278.*