LITERATURE AT LANG

An Overview
What's Ahead

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◦ Requirements
  ❖ 2 Introductory Courses (Literary Foundations)
  ❖ 1 Single Text/Author Course
  ❖ 1 Reading for Writers (RFW) Course
  ❖ 4 Literature Electives
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  ❖ 1 Poetry Course
  ❖ 1 Senior Capstone
    ◦ Seminar vs. Thesis (Independent Senior Project)
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◦ Faculty Scholarship

◦ Exemplary Capstones

Presentation by Eva Silverman, Class of 2020
MISSION
Why Study Literature?

- Develop a capacity for literary analysis from a critical and creative perspective
- Gain an understanding of the ways in which texts are situated within a historical context
- Become equally acquainted with anglophone literature and literature in translation
- Study literature from a wide range of historical periods and geographical regions
Potential Career Paths for Literature Majors

- Editing and publishing
- Magazine writing and reviews
- Writing and editing for digital media
- Corporate communications
- Teaching literature at all levels (primary, secondary, collegiate)
- Government and nonprofit careers requiring advanced literary skills
  - Advertising
  - Public relations
  - Library and archival work
  - ESL teaching
REQUIREMENTS
Literature Concentration Requirements

- 2 Core (Literary Foundations) courses (6-8 credits)
- 1 Single text/author course (3-4 credits)
- 1 Reading for Writers course (3-4 credits)
- 1 Poetry course (3-4 credits)
- 2 Advanced Literature electives (6-8 credits)
- 4 Literature electives (12-16 credits)
- 1 Senior Capstone (3-4 credits)

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Total Credits Needed to Graduate: 120

Credits Needed in Literature (LLST or LLSL) to Complete Concentration: 36-48

Credits in Advanced (3000) Literature Courses Needed to Complete Concentration: 6-8

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Students must receive a C or above in all courses to fulfill major requirements!
Literary Foundations

**Invention of Literature**
Lecture + Discussion

- Introduces students to literature of the ancient world through an examination of some foundational Western literary texts
- Course readings include sacred books; epics; and ancient dramas, philosophical dialogues, and literary criticism

**Literary Reinvention**
Lecture + Discussion

- Explores the way literature is grounded in the act of reinventing earlier stories for new purposes
- Course readings include novels, poems, plays, and essays spanning the modern period (from the 17th century to 2018)
Interested in medieval literature and questioning “the authority of authorship? Try **Chaucer: The Art of Irony** (LLST 3421)

Fan of magical realism and the contemporary Latin American literary tradition? Try **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** (LLST 3526)

Curious about the origins of Russian literature as we know it? Try **Alexander Pushkin** (LLST 3608)

Love autofiction, French literature, and/or big, sprawling sagas? Try **Marcel Proust** (LLST 3514)

Want to see how memoir, cultural criticism, and fiction can all provide avenues for critically analyzing matters of sexuality, race, class, and gender? Try **James Baldwin & American Sexuality** (LLST 3541)

Learn about American history by reading over 2,000 poems in one semester? Try **Emily Dickinson** (LLST 3520)

Single text/author courses allow students to hone their skills at close-reading and critical analysis as they expand their knowledge of literary history through a deep dive into a single author’s body of work. Readings from the chosen author/text will be supplemented with study of the work of authors who influenced them, authors they influenced, and relevant theoretical texts.
RFW (Reading for Writers)

- RFW courses combine the reading and critical analysis of great literary works with creative writing
- Lang offers RFW courses in Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction
- Open to Juniors and Seniors only (with exceptions)
SENIOR CAPSTONES
Capstone Options

Senior Seminar
(only offered in Spring semester)
- A 4000-level class in which students research and write a paper on a topic of their choice of approximately 30 pages

Independent Senior Project
(offered both Spring and Fall semesters)
- An independent research paper on a topic of the student’s choice conducted under the advisory of a full-time professor of Literature of 40+ pages

Preparation for capstones (both seminar and independent project) should begin in the second semester of junior year.
Senior Capstone Examples

- Jeffrey Boatwright, “‘Redeem the Time’: A Reinterpretation of American Modernist Poetry” (Senior Thesis)
- Arnell Calderon, “The Struggle to Find Home Through Literacy: Sycorax’s Silence as a Compass to Liberation” (Senior Seminar)
- Francesca Gambino, “An Erotic Reading of To the Lighthouse” (Senior Seminar)
- Andreina Himy, “Sound and the Limits of Dialogue: Dostoevsky, Faulkner, and Bakhtin” (Senior Thesis)
- Claudia Long, “Codependency and Trauma in Waiting for Godot” (Senior Seminar)
- Callie O’Rourke, “D.H. Lawrence and the Problem of the Pastoral” (Senior Seminar)
- Alma Maria Valdez-Garcia, “Malinalli’s [Re]Enchantment: Espíritu del cuerpo” (Senior Seminar)
- Fathima Sheikh, “Two Partitions in Hussein’s The Weary Generations” (Senior Seminar)
FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP + CREATIVE WORK
Juan E De Castro

Professor of Literary Studies

Has specialized in modern Latin American literature, and recently published *Borges and Kafka, Bolaño and Bloom: Latin American Authors.*

Val Vinokur

Associate Professor of Literary Studies

Authored *The Trace of Judaism: Dostoevsky, Babel, Mandelstam, Levinas,* a finalist for the 2009 AATSEEL Award for Best Book in Literary/Cultural Studies, and founded Poets & Traitors Press, an independent press dedicated to publishing original works of poetry and translation.
Rose Rejouis
Associate Professor of Literature
Has contributed several articles to the French journal, Esprit, and authored Veillées Pour les Mots [Wakes for Words] (2005), a study of the motif of funerary rites in the Caribbean novel.

Paul Kottman
Professor of Comparative Literature and Chair of Liberal Studies
Has authored several studies uniting his expertise in Shakespeare, Hegel, and aesthetic philosophy, and recently published his Love as Human Freedom (2017), an exploration of love as a constantly evolving practice that can shape social realities and help explain social-historical shifts.
Inessa Medzhibovskaya
Associate Professor of Literature and Literary Studies
Has taught at The New School since 2004. She holds a joint tenure in Liberal Studies and Literature at The New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College. Her publications focus on Russia and Eastern Europe and include eight previously published books, including the first definitive biography of Tolstoy’s religious and philosophical evolution, *Tolstoy and the Religious Culture of His Time*, in 2009, and the first book-length study of Tolstoy’s thoughts on life, death, love, and happiness, *Tolstoy’s On Life*, in 2019. Her *Tolstoy as Philosopher* is about to be published in 2022.

Julie Napolin
Associate Professor of Digital Humanities and Literature
Capstone Coordinator
Published *The Fact of Resonance*, a study of the history of sound technology and its connections to writers such as Joseph Conrad, Frantz Fanon, and Sigmund Freud, in 2020.
Gabrielle Williams
Assistant Professor of African American Literature
Recently authored “Starving from Satiety” (2018), a dissertation on the “uncommon hunger” present in twentieth-century African American novels such as Their Eyes Were Watching God and Beloved.

Stephanie Browner
Professor of Literature
Founded the Charles Chesnutt Digital Archive, is the General Editor of the Complete Writings of Charles W. Chesnutt, and publishes on nineteenth-century American culture.
Rich Blint

Assistant Professor of Literature and Program Director of Race & Ethnicity

Has written extensively on the life and work of James Baldwin and curated numerous events and exhibitions at venues across NYC.

Carolyn Berman

Associate Professor of Literature and Co-Chair of Literary Studies

Published *Creole Crossings*, a cultural history of the depiction of Creole women in 19th century British, French, and American fiction in 2006 and *Dickens and Democracy in the Age of Paper: Representing the People* in 2022.
QUESTIONS?

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Please email Prof. Berman at BermanC@newschool.edu