LITERATURE AT LANG

An Overview
What's Ahead

- Mission
  - Why Study Literature?
  - Potential Career Paths for Literature Majors

- Requirements
  - 2 Introductory Courses (Literary Foundations)
  - 1 Single Text/Author Course
  - 1 Reading for Writers (RFW) Course
  - 4 Literature Electives
  - 2 Advanced Literature Courses
  - 1 Poetry Course
  - 1 Senior Capstone
    - Seminar vs. Thesis (Independent Senior Project)
    - Exemplary Capstones

- 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 Introductory (Literary Foundations) courses (7-8 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 Department (LLST or LLSL) to Complete Concentration: 36-48

Credits in Advanced (3000) Literature Courses Needed to Complete Concentration: 12-16

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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 the birth, evolution, and history of literature through an examination of 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 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)
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, Nonfiction, and Journalism
- Open to Juniors and Seniors only (with exceptions)
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

Associate Professor of Literary Studies

Has edited several volumes of critical work on the Peruvian novelist and 2010 Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa.

Val Vinokur

Associate Professor of Literary Studies

Founder of Poets & Traitors Press, a small press dedicated to publishing original works of poetry and translation.
Rose Rejouis  
*Associate Professor of Literature*  
Has translated several novels and novellas from French into English with Val Vinokur and authored *Veillées Pour les Mots* [Wakes for Words], 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 and edited several studies on Shakespeare and Hegelian philosophy.
Inessa Medzhibovskaya  
Associate Professor of Literature and Liberal Studies  

Julie Napolin  
Associate Professor of Digital Humanities and Literature  
Capstone Coordinator  
Amy Sara Carroll
Assistant Professor of Literary Studies

Has published two books of poetry as well as several hybrid literary texts and is a member of Electronic Disturbance Theater 2.0, an artists collective for which she co-produced an app called the Transborder Immigrant Tool.

Elaine Savory
Associate Professor of Literature and Chair/Departmental Faculty Advisor of Environmental Studies

Has written and edited several works of scholarship on Caribbean and African literature with a focus on women's writing.
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 is currently at work on a book manuscript titled Representing the People: Dickens and Democracy in the Paper Age.
QUESTIONS?

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Ask away!