

Fall 2016 - Romance Languages Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to-date, accurate information.

CSEM 23101 – On Humor: Understanding Italy

MW 2:00-3:15

J. Welle

This College Seminar explores questions of humor, laughter, and comedy through a rich variety of classical and modern texts. We begin with examples of Greek and Roman comedy, and proceed to examine Commedia dell'arte, an improvisational form of theatre originating in Italy that was influential throughout Europe for over two centuries. We encounter Shakespeare and Goldoni and analyze their relationship to both classical comedy and to Commedia dell'arte. Having traced the contours of ancient comedy and the roots of modern comedy, we turn to a major twentieth-century thinker on humor: Luigi Pirandello. Pirandello's tragic-comic vision is explored through short stories and a masterpiece of modern theatre, "Six Characters in Search of an Author." Next, we analyze a series of Italian film comedies discussing them in the historical context of Italy over the second half of the twentieth century. Throughout this trajectory, our primary focus will be on the nature of humor and comic forms as expressed in classical comedy from Ancient Greece and Rome up to contemporary film comedies; our secondary focus will be on why comedy from the ancient classical inheritance through the Commedia dell'arte to contemporary film comedy provides a key to understanding Italy both as an heir to an ancient civilization and as a lively modern country. Students will be evaluated on their preparation for and participation in class discussions, on leading class discussions, on oral presentations, and on a final exam. To further develop skills of speaking and oral presentation, the course will also incorporate aspects of "Readers' Theatre" as students will learn to read sections from the various plays out loud in class with dramatic effect.

LLRO 10111 – Beginning Quechua

MWF 8:20-9:10am & TR (CE)

Join the millions of Quechua speakers in South America and around the world. Quechua was the official language of the Inca civilization and continues to be spoken by over 10 million people in six countries in South America today. Beyond its conventional rural environment, Quechua has expanded almost everywhere in our modern world. This course includes basic aspects of the Andean cultures as part of the Quechua instruction. We will explore Quechua stories from ancient and recent times as well as its development in the digital world. Students will acquire elementary knowledge and use of Quechua for everyday interaction. This course can be taken as a six-credit hybrid introductory language course, which combines traditional classroom with on-line instruction. Students attend class with a Quechua native instructor (MWF) and work on-line (T-TH). Or it can also be taken as a three credit regular course with MWF instruction format. The instructor will balance both spoken and written Quechua as well as exercise reading and listening. Knowledge of Spanish is desirable but not required. Cross listed with LAST 10502.

LLRO 10112 – Beginning Creole**MWF (CE) & TR 3:30-4:45****K. Richman**

This course is intended for students who have taken beginning level Creole Language and Culture. In small-group teaching sessions, students will be prepared for conversational fluency with basic reading and writing skills, emphasizing communicative competence as well as grammatical and phonetic techniques. Our study of Kreyòl is integrated with an exploration of how the language is tied to Haitian society, culture, economy and politics and history. Evaluation of student achievement and proficiency will be conducted both informally and formally during and at the conclusion of the course. Those looking to develop or improve their language skills are welcome to the class. The program is designed to meet the needs of those who plan to conduct research in Haiti or in the Haitian diaspora, or who intend to work in a volunteer or professional capacity either in Haiti or with Haitians abroad.

LLRO 10113 – Beginning Catalan**MWF 10:30-11:20am & TR C(CE)**

This is a variable three or six-credit hybrid introductory language course, which combines traditional classroom with computer enhanced (CE) instruction. Students who sign up at the three-credit level attend class with an instructor (MWF); students who sign up at the six-credit level attend class with an instructor (MWF) and work individually on specifically designed computer-enhanced course materials (T-TH). The focus of the course is on a balanced approach to acquisition of all language skills –equal emphasis is placed on spoken and written Catalan– and appreciation of Catalan Culture reading, films, music, and class discussion. Combined with an advanced knowledge of Spanish or another Romance Language, Beginning Catalan can allow students to quickly develop reading skills for their research. The study of Catalan language, culture and history is key to achieving a full understanding of Spanish-Catalan relations as well as the socio-cultural complexity of today's Spain, and is highly recommended to students who want to enhance their knowledge of the Iberian Peninsula. Given the significant Catalan immigration to Latin America –particularly during the second part of the XIX and the first part of the XX centuries–, the study of Catalan language and culture can also provide students with a broader understanding of the history of countries such as Cuba, Argentina or Uruguay, among others. The interest of Catalan, however, is not limited to the field of Iberian or Hispanic studies: the study of its historic presence in the Mediterranean, as well as the current situation of Catalan within the European Community, in fact, can also promote a better knowledge of the multiplicity of political and linguistic identities present in contemporary Europe, giving students the chance to explore many different topics related to history, socio-linguistics, anthropology, art-history, literature, and beyond.

LLRO 13186-01/02 - University Seminar: Imaginary Worlds and Fantastic Travels**Section 01: TR 3:30-4:45pm****S. Ferri**

This course focuses on the geography of imagined places and made-up fantasy worlds in literature and film. The seminar will be organized around thematic clusters, such as the worlds of the afterlife, utopian and dystopian lands, cities of the future, enchanted gardens and descriptions of unexplored countries. We will see how each theme has developed over time, discuss the reasons and ideas behind each author's creation, examine the meanings associated with imaginary places, and try to understand what an imaginary place tells us about the real world. Some of the questions that we will raise are: What is the significance of geographical imagination? What are the assumptions and intentions of the authors in

developing fantasy worlds? What do imaginary places reveal about the social and historical contexts against which they are set? What is the connection between literary creation and geographical invention? Requirements include one oral presentation, two written assignments, and a final creative project in which each student will contribute to the creation of an imaginary world developed by the class.

LLRO 13186-02 - University Seminar: Reading the City: Barcelona in Literature and Cinema

TR 2:00-3:15pm

L. Francalanci

From the lively cultural capital of the nineteenth-century to the gloomy city of the years following the Spanish Civil War, the transformation of Barcelona into the hip Mediterranean city of today has been a long and sometimes troubled journey. Representations of the city found in the works of writers and artists who were born, have lived in, or traveled through Barcelona provide a privileged vantage point onto the spatial, cultural and social transformations the city underwent during the last century. Through readings, films screenings, and class discussion, this course will introduce students to the construction of the image of the vibrant Catalan capital from the revival of Catalan culture during the late nineteenth century to the present day. Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to explore a broad variety of topics such as contemporary Spanish and European history, art-history, architecture, cultural identity politics, space and spatial literary theory. Readings and screenings will include works such as Mercè Rodoreda's *The Time of the Doves* (1962), Colm Tóibín's *Homage to Barcelona* (2002), Eduardo Mendoza's *The City of Marvels* (1990), Woody Allen's *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2008), and Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Buñuel* (2010), among others.

LLRO 20201 - Intermediate Quechua

MWF 9:25-10:15am

V. Maqqe

An intermediate-level, third-semester college language course with emphasis on and refinement of grammatical competence and oral and written language skills. Class time is dedicated to interactive discussion encouraging the development of language proficiency and generating cultural understanding.

LLRO 30811 - History of Colonial Latin America

MW 2:00-3:15

K. Graubart

When Columbus stepped ashore in the Caribbean in 1492, he set in motion a process that led to the creation of wealthy Spanish and Portuguese empires in the Americas, the genocide of countless numbers of indigenous men and women, the enslavement of millions of African men and women, and the eventual formation of a variety of independent states competing in the world economy. In this semester-long survey, we will examine topics in this history that will allow us to consider how history is produced as well as what happened in the past, from various perspectives, from elite colonial administrators and merchants to indigenous peasants and formerly enslaved men and women.

CROSSLISTED with History 30901, ROSP 30811

LLRO 40114 – Dante’s Divine Comedy: The Christian Universe as Poetry

TR 2:00-3:15pm

Z. Baranski

Dante is the greatest religious poet of Western culture, and his great epic poem, the Divine Comedy, offers a remarkable and original synthesis of his view of the fundamental relationship between God and humanity. The course offers an introduction to Dante’s Commedia (the title of the poem is Comedy and not Divine Comedy as is commonly believed) by focusing on the first of its three parts, Inferno, while also paying significant attention to its other two parts, Purgatorio and Paradiso. Classes principally concentrate on providing readings of individual cantos. (The course is divided into 4 introductory lectures, 12 classes on Inferno, 7 on Purgatory, and 6 on Paradiso.) At the same time, broader issues central to Dante’s masterpiece will be discussed. In particular, attention will be paid to Dante’s ties to classical and Christian culture, his political views, his ideas on language, his involvement in contemporary intellectual debates, his efforts to use poetry for ethical and religious ends, and his literary experimentation (including his perplexing choice of title for his masterpiece). The course is taught in English. Dante’s poem, too, will be read in English translation, though students with a reading knowledge of Italian are encouraged to read it in both languages. The translation is that found in the annotated bilingual edition by Robert and Jean Hollander (the three-volume—Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso—paperback edition is published by Anchor Books, an imprint of Random House). Counts as an Italian Studies course for the Major or Minor. Cross list with MI 40565/MI 60552, LLRO 40114.

LLRO 40595 - New Trends in European Nonfiction Films

TR 3:30-4:45pm

O. Morel

This class will present an overview of the most recent trends in nonfiction films directed and produced in a globalized Europe. One of our goals will consist of analyzing how non-fiction cinema is transforming both the news and traditional fiction cinema. We will also reflect on the political importance of non-fiction filmmaking in conflict situations and in the context of the dramatic political tensions affecting Europe today (terrorism, wars, refugee crises, the rise of far right parties, economic crisis?). We will study new forms of non-fiction cinema: animation, webdocs, 3-D, augmented reality, as well as the changes in the economy of the sector. We will welcome guests on Skype: authors, filmmakers, producers. Two written assignments, oral presentations as well as active participation in our class will constitute the basic requirements.

LLRO 40950 - Brazil Beyond Soccer and Samba

200 million people, 47.3% of the South American territory, the largest economy in Latin America and the 7th in the world, host of the 2016 Olympic Games. Brazil is a South American Giant that needs to be understood by any specialist in the region, from language to business, from culture to international relations. In this course, students will explore the historical, economical and cultural conditions of Brazil during its military dictatorship (1964-1985), its redemocratization in the 1980s, its rise as a regional and global power in the 2000s, as well as the current political and economic crisis that grips the country. Taught in English. CROSS LIST with ROPO 40950