

The School of Liberal Arts

Literature

Office: 306 Norman Mayer or 300 Newcomb Hall

Phone: 504-862-8302 or 862-3402

Fax: 504-862-8745

Program Administrators

Ray Taras, Political Science

Kathleen Davis, Spanish and Portuguese

The literature major seeks to expose students to the study of *world literatures and cultures* within a comparative framework as well as from the perspective of significant literary theories. Students will explore culture across the boundaries of national traditions and discrete historical periods. Literature courses will address such issues as canon formation; historical links between the rise of nationalism and the development of national literatures; cross-cultural diffusion and borrowings, translations, and influences; the relationship between theory and literary practice; and the effects of imperialism, colonialism, and global commerce on literary production, consumption, and values. Courses draw upon the expertise of faculty in a wide array of departments and programs throughout LAS as well as that of outside lecturers.

MAJOR

The Literature major consists of 10 courses (30 credits), which are divided into core and advanced course work.

Core courses (12 credits)

LITR 201 Global Texts and Traditions I

LITR 202 Global Texts and Traditions II

LITR 301 Introduction to Literary Analysis

One of the following:

LITR 401 Introduction to Literary Theory

ENLS 471 Introduction to Literary Theory

FREN 615 Concepts of Literary Criticism

SPAN 610 Literary Theory

Majors must also take three courses (nine credits) at the four hundred level or above in one nonnative national literature. Normally, those courses are offered in one of the following departments: Classical Studies (LATN and GREK offerings), French and Italian, German and Slavic Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese. Students must take two courses (six credits) in related departments or programs. Those courses will provide a framework and/or methodology for comparative literary studies. They may include LITR 481- and 482- Special Topics or courses at the 300 or 400 level or above in the following disciplines: African and African Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Asian Studies, Brazilian Studies, Classical Studies (CLAS offerings), Cultural Studies, Economics, English, History, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Theatre and Dance, and/or Women's Studies. Students must receive the major adviser's approval and, in some cases, the instructor's approval for courses other than LITR. Students must take the capstone senior seminar, LITR 595 (3 credits), in the fall of the senior year.

LITR 201 Global Texts and Traditions I (3)

Staff. This gateway course provides an introduction to Western and Non-Western literatures and cultures up to the Early Modern period. The course examines literary texts within a series of themes and topics, such as origins, cultural encounters, and self and society. The course will examine cultural similarities and differences by analyzing modes of transculturation and literary transference.

LITR 202 Global Texts and Traditions II (3)

Staff. This gateway course provides an introduction to Western and Non-Western literatures and cultures from the Early Modern Period to the contemporary age. The course examines literary texts within a series of themes and topics, such as origins, cultural encounters, and self and society. The course will examine cultural similarities and differences by analyzing modes of transculturation and literary transference.

LITR 301 Introduction to Literary Analysis (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: LITR 201 and 202. This course aims to familiarize students with the tools of literary analysis in the major Non-Western and Western traditions. We study a variety of texts from diverse periods and traditions in terms of genre,

literary history, formal terminology, canonicity, translation, textuality, and comparative approaches. For majors, this course is recommended before LITR 401.

LITR 401 Introduction to Literary Theory (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: LITR 201 and 202. This course aims to orient students to the major terms, issues, and debates informing contemporary literary theory. Beginning with the key roles that semiotics, Marxism and psychoanalysis play in today's literary theory and criticism, the course proceeds to consider questions of the "literary," formal versus historical approaches, contributions of feminism, gender studies, and queer theory, and issues pertaining to multiculturalism. For majors, this course is recommended after LITR 301.

LITR 481, 482 Special Topics (3, 3)

A writing practicum is available. May be used to fulfill the college intensive-writing requirement.

LITR H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Admission by departmental and Honors Committee approval.

LITR 595 Senior Seminar (3)

Prerequisites: senior standing and LITR 201, 202, 301, and 401. This seminar offers majors an opportunity to explore in depth a topic in literary studies from a comparative perspective. Examples of some topics include: the literature of protest; globalization and the world's literatures; war and the production/reception of literature; utopias and dystopias; wisdom literature; and post-modern narrative theory.