

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES

COURSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH



LLCU 316 Classical Mythology: Gods, Heroes, and Monsters

Instructor: Tyson Sukava TR 3:30-4:45 PM

How close are original Greek and Roman myths to the versions you've heard? You would probably be surprised by the differences. These ancient stories form a tapestry of the raw and brutal elements of our universe. Woven into this are the threads of human adversity and, as is so often the case, human fragility in the face of legendary beasts, cruel kings, and the powerful Olympian gods. Join us as we explore both popular and lesser-known myths from the Greek and Roman worlds. Along the way, we'll uncover the fascinating origins, meanings, and histories of these stories that continue to inspire, shock, and amaze us today. Offered with an honors section (080). **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "A" requirement

LLCU 330 Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Rome and Greece

Instructor: Marcaline J. Boyd TR 2:00-3:15 PM

This course devotes its attention to the lives and representations of women and men in ancient Greece and Rome. We will investigate a wide range of texts, including tragedy, comedy, poetry, philosophy, legal documents, and medical treatises, as well as material culture (e.g. classical sculpture and architecture, images on pots, and wall paintings). This course will also explore gender through the prism of a variety of cultural and social processes: myth, art, legal systems, prostitution, homosexuality, religion, politics, medicine, and family. Throughout this course, we will focus on how gender figures as a central motif in ancient Greece and Rome, and gain, it is hoped, a complete understanding of the role that gender plays in our own society. Offered with an honors section (080). **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "B" requirement

LLCU328 The Japanese Short Story

Instructor: Rachael Hutchinson MWF 10:10-11:00 AM

The aim of this course is to explore the short story form as it has taken shape in Japan, from the Meiji period (1868-1912) to the present. We will read many short stories by well-known Japanese authors, following the Meiji transformation to modernity, the appropriation of Western customs and literary methods, the rise to war, and dissatisfaction and malaise in the postwar era. Male and female authors are equally represented, and we will discuss many factors that go into the making of the 'canon' of modern Japanese literature. We will examine how authors used different literary methods such as historical fiction, allegory and fantasy, to critique and comment upon larger issues in Japanese society. Some of these issues are war complicity, ideological apostasy, and the value of self-sacrifice, as well as shifting expectations in terms of marriage, the family and gender identity. The course ends with stories written in response to the Fukushima disaster of 2011, bringing us up to the present day. **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "A" requirement

LLCU332 Poetry and Politics in Arabic Culture

Instructor: Ikram Masmoudi TR 3:30-4:45 PM

The relations between poetry, society and politics are nothing new in Arabic literary expression. Already, in pre-Islamic poetry, the nexus between the tribe and the poet as its political spokesperson was very strong. Poets continued throughout the ages to embody in their productions this reciprocal relationship. This course will examine the relationships between poetry and politics by focusing on major contemporary Arab poets, situating them within the broader sociopolitical and cultural contexts and analyze the existential connections between their artistic productions and their societies. We will also examine how change slowly came about, thus moving the poetic away from the political, and reconnecting poetry with issues pertaining to the personal, humanist ideals and aesthetic considerations. In English, open to all, no knowledge of Arabic needed.



LLCU416/616 Dante's Divine Comedy in Medieval and Popular Culture

Instructor: Meredith Ray TR 11:00-12:15 PM

Populated with vivid characters, *The Divine Comedy* offers a compelling window onto medieval history, culture, and religion. Seven hundred years after its composition, Dante's vision of the afterlife continues to resonate, addressing the kinds of ethical questions with which we still grapple: What does it mean to be a moral person? How do our actions impact the lives of those around us? What happens to us after we die? Our readings and discussion of Dante's poem will touch on these topics and more, including Dante's literary, historical, and political context, the influence of non-Christian civilizations on his thought, and medieval views on gender and sexuality. In addition to our close readings of Dante's poem, especially *Inferno*, we will consider its enduring impact on popular culture from novels and film to music and video games. Students will hone their critical thinking skills through discussion and develop tools for perceptive literary and cultural analysis in various written assignments, culminating in a research or creative project. **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "A" requirement

LLCU327 Russian and Soviet Science Fiction

Instructor: Julia Hulings MWF 10:10-11:00 AM

Russian writer Evgenij Zamyatin depicts a future world of "the square roots of minus one" in his banned novel *We*, his response to the chaos brought by the October Revolution. This early sci-fi dystopia influenced G. Orwell and his *1984*, however the roots of sci-fi in Russia run deeper. Even the great Dostoevsky explores an untenable, alien utopia that reveals the negative results of the ethical ambivalence of science. The 20th century brings Alexander Kuprin's "Toast" set in the year 2905, when universal harmony is not all as intended, and Valery Bryusov's "Republic of the Southern Cross," where dictatorship battles human desire. Our exploration includes *Roadside Picnic* by the Strugatsky Brothers, a classic in alien visitation and a must-read in world sci-fi. Through other engaging stories about liquid sunshine, giant boa constrictors, and genetic engineering, we discover that what we dream of and what we can have may be two entirely different things, and even with the most careful attention to logic and reason, things can go very wrong. **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "A" requirement

LLCU352 Videogames and Latin American Culture

Instructor: Phillip Penix-Tadsen TR 11:00-12:15 PM

This course explores the relationship between videogames and culture by analyzing both in-game cultural representation and the real-life economic, political and societal effects of games across Latin America. Although this region may not be the first to come to mind when thinking of videogames, an examination of Latin America's diverse contexts offers a unique view of how products of "global" media are transformed by local and regional practices particular to the multiple markets in which those media circulate. This course focuses on an explanation of key concepts for understanding the relationship between culture and games, including the effects of gameplay, spatialization and algorithmic structure on videogames' meaning, as well as the social, political and economic implications of videogames as a cultural phenomenon. **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "A" requirement.

LLCU 335 A Land of Many Faces – Israel through Time

Instructor: Eynat Gutman TR 11:00-12:15 PM

In this course, we consider questions such as: did the Israeli kibbutz (communal living) survive the test of time? How do Arab citizens of a Jewish state perceive themselves vis a vis their Jewish counterparts? And what were the customs of Jews living in Arab countries a century ago? What changes did they undergo upon moving to Israel? Through analysis of leading Israeli authors' literary works, we explore these major themes, as they pertain to Israeli society's complex structure, from the foundation of the state until today. Taught in English, the course is offered with a second writing section option (011). **Satisfies:** Fulfills Group "B" requirement