

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Graduate Bulletin
(Spring 2016)

Course offerings in:

French, Modern Languages and Literatures, Portuguese, and Spanish/

Tracy Devine Guzmán, Director of Graduate Studies (tdguzman@miami.edu)

FRENCH

FRE 621 (Cross-listed with MLL 621)

Re- and Dis-Orienting Orientalism (19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries)

Dr. Ralph Heyndels

Tuesdays, 5-7:30 p.m.

Through a series of targeted critical inquiries, this seminar aims to identify discursive, narrative, poetical, and visual modalities of the re-positioning and (explicitly or implicitly) (self)-questioning of Orientalism. We will examine a series of modern, post-modern, colonial, and post(neo)-colonial expressions and forms that have appeared from the 19th to the 21st centuries, and which have attempted (willingly or not) to re- or dis- orientate Orientalism in a variety of substantive and stylistic ways.

Starting with several reassessments and/or deconstructions of Edward Said's opus magnum (Edmund Burke III and David Prochaska; Robert Irwin; Ian Richard Netton; Francois Pouillon and Jean-Claude Vatin; Daniel Martin Varrisco; Hamid Dabashi; Ziad Elmarsafy, et al.), we will move toward problematizing the Orient/Occident dichotomy (Mohammad Salama, Hamid Dabashi), giving particular attention to "Imagining the Arab Other" (Tahar Labid) and modalities of Orientalist perception as thought by the "Orientals" themselves (Ridha Boulaâbi).

To contextualize the authors whose work we will examine in the second part of the seminar, and by reading of a series of case studies from collective works edited by Ali Behdad (*Belated Travelers*); Ralph Heyndels (*Les écrivains français et le monde arabe*); and Ridha Boulaâbi (*Les Orientaux face aux orientalismes*); we will consider a series of 19th, 20th, and 21st century Orientalist literary topoi and tropes from writers such as Chateaubriand, Nerval, Flaubert, Loti, Renan, Gide, Augieras, Ollier, and Le Clezio. The syndrome of queer existential quest and esthetics will be a significant feature of our reflection based on readings from Robert Aldrich's *The Seduction of the Mediterranean: Writing, Art and Homosexual Fantasy*, and Joseph Allen Boone's, *The Homoerotics of Orientalism*. We will also examine visual representation of Orientalism (Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby; Jocelyn Hackforth and Mary Roberts; Martin Jay and Sumathi Ramaswamy; Roger Benjamin) including in photography (Ali Behdad and Luke Gartlan; Abdellah Taïa and Frédéric Mitterrand; Abdellah Taïa on Francois-Marie Banier).

The second part of the seminar will deal with the following question: Is there a way out of Orientalism from mainly (but not restrictively) a Western viewpoint, and how is such an endeavor at work in art practices and literature? This interrogation will be pointed at the poetical and existential trajectory of Arthur Rimbaud and the singular rhetoric and esthetic of emptying the Orientalist exoticism at stake in his poetry and correspondence from Arabia and Africa; to the discursive and narrative tactics aiming to displace, divert, and subvert Orientalism in Jean Genet's literary and political enterprise; to the attempt to avoid and skirt the Orientalist "trappings" in some of Roland Barthes' writings (particularly in his commentary on von Gloeden's 19th-century, Orientalist, homo-erotic photography work). In conclusion, we will examine the deceptive de-Orientalist treatment of an iconic Orientalist site, Marrakech, in the 2013 novel *Analphabètes*, by Moroccan writer, Rachid O.

Students outside the French doctoral program who have adequate comprehension and reading skills in French are welcome to take this course as MLL 621. For students working in Spanish and English, some French-language readings will be substituted with texts pertaining to Hispanic or Anglo-American Orientalisms. Texts by Rimbaud, Genet, and Barthes are available in English translation. Students outside the French doctoral program will be able to participate and present in English, and to write their final essays in English or Spanish. These students should contact the instructor in advance of the Spring 2016 semester so that adequate arrangements can be made.

For students in the French doctoral program, this course fulfills the 19th or 20th century period requirement.

MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

MLL 621

Introduction to Digital Humanities

Dr. Lillian Manzor

Thursdays, 5:00-7:30 p.m.



(Image from The Getty Iris)

This seminar introduces students to current debates in the digital humanities as well as to digital humanities projects and tools for approaching humanities research in new ways. During the course, we'll read articles that discuss DH, explore and analyze other projects, and experiment with basic tools that students might use in the future. Throughout the course, we will take notes on a collaborative Google doc. Students will be encouraged to use a blog to reflect upon their reading and work. Faculty from different disciplines, including the library, will address trends in the field and guide hands-on workshops on basic HTML, GIS, visualization, database design, data mining, text encoding, multimodal publications, etc. These workshops will be finalized after students report the projects they are interesting in developing. The final project for the seminar consists of a draft proposal for a digital humanities project developed in a small group using NEH's Digital Humanities Startup Grant guidelines. As part of the proposal, student groups will present a small prototype that demonstrates their project idea. Seminar and readings are in English. Open to graduate students from all humanities departments. No previous experience in digital humanities required.

MLL 614
Introduction to Critical Theory II
Dr. Allison Shifani
Mondays, 3:35-6:05

This course is designed to familiarize graduate students in the Humanities with key developments in theoretical approaches to literary and cultural studies, with particular focus on works published from 1980 to the present. Students will explore key texts from scholars of neo-vitalism, object oriented ontology, ecocriticism, non-representational theory, media studies, and critical digital humanities. In addition to these theoretical works, the seminar will also closely examine literary texts, films, and works of art in a variety of media that resonate with or otherwise engage these and other emerging approaches to aesthetic, political, and cultural objects.

MLL 603 (Cross-listed with SPA 621)
Ideologies of Language
Dr. Andrew Lynch
Wednesdays, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

In this seminar, we will examine the ways language is imagined, constructed, and represented in contemporary times through the conceptual lens of ‘language ideologies,’-- i.e. “cultural systems of ideas about social and linguistic relationships, together with their loading of moral and political interests” (Judith Irvine, 1989), focusing primarily on Spanish-speaking, Francophone, and Creole societies. After making some philosophical and theoretical considerations of the concepts of ‘language’ and ‘ideology,’ we will analyze the central place that language ideologies occupy in some of today’s most contentious societal issues, focusing on questions of community, (post-)nationalism and nation-ness, collective memory, authority and legitimacy, authenticity, identity, and globalization. Readings include philosophical and theoretical essays, sociolinguistic studies, cultural commentaries, and literary selections.

The seminar has four main objectives: 1) to expand students’ knowledge of theory and research relevant to constructs of ‘language’; 2) to develop students’ awareness of the linguistic ideological dimensions of diverse cultural, social, and political debates; and 3) to stimulate thinking about the role of ‘language’ *sensu stricto* in critical discourse studies.

Students needing Spanish credit will conduct their work in Spanish and should enroll in the SPA section. Students with passive knowledge of Spanish are welcome to join the class by enrolling in the MLL section and may complete their written work in English.

PORTUGUESE

POR 691

The Mythical Nordeste: *Cangaço, Cordel and Cana de Açúcar*

Dr. Chrissy Arce

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 1:25PM - 2:15PM

This course examines the space – both imagined and real – of the Brazilian Northeast: land of *lobishomens*, *cangaceiros* and *itinerantes*. By centering on regional writers, filmmakers, and popular balladry, this course will underscore the importance of the Northeast as a central trope in the Brazilian arts and national imaginary. We pay special attention to the space of the *sertão* with its incredible fertility, followed by mythic droughts; the culture that emerges from these geographic conditions, as well as the mass migrations it causes. We will examine the sugarcane novels that mythologize the glory and deterioration of sugarcane plantations, and the concomitant societies based on slavery and patronage. We will take an extended look at the mythology of the *cangaceiro* (bandit) in contrast to the real they threat they posed to the state; and we will unpack the importance of popular balladry for all of these phenomena (plantation society, banditry, migration) in a region known for almost arcane idiomatic expressions. We will study writers such as José Lins do Rego, Guimarães Rosa, Osman Lins, Graciliano Ramos, Rachel de Queiroz, Jorge Amado, Francisco Dantas; and filmmakers such as Glauber Rocha and Hilton Lacerda.

POR 625

Portuguese for Graduate Research

Dr. Leila da Costa

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:10-11:00

An accelerated beginner's course intended for students with basic knowledge of Spanish or another Romance language.

POR 635

Portuguese for Graduate Students

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:20

Dr. María Gracia Pardo

Intended for students carrying out research related to the Lusophone world, Portuguese 635 follows POR 625 and is designed to enhance graduate students' communication skills at the low-advanced level of proficiency.

SPANISH

SPA 621

LGBTQIA Culture and Thought in Latin America and Spain

Dr. Gema Pérez-Sánchez

Tuesdays, 3:30-6:00 p.m.

In this course, we will study diverse contemporary works that combine queer and decolonial thought to provide students with a working knowledge of salient contemporary Latin American, US Latino/a, and Spanish queer and trans* theory. When appropriate, we will engage in comparative analyses of these works and the Anglo-American and French queer theory that these authors engage, challenge, or, in some cases, “anticipate,” so that students can emerge with a substantial transnational knowledge of current theoretical LGBTQIA thought. We will analyze literary texts, visual works, and performances, and students will be encouraged to propose their own primary texts to read and discuss in the fourth quarter of the semester. Because of the professor’s research background and interests, the course will focus mostly, but not exclusively, on works from Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Puerto Rico, and the USA. Students researching other regions are welcome to write their final papers on those areas of study. Although the majority of the readings and class discussions will be in Spanish, students who can read and understand Spanish relatively well are welcome to join the course and to participate in English. There might also be the possibility of working on materials (artists books, zines, ephemera) at the special collections in Richter Library.

Dr. Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes will deliver a lecture on his work specifically for this class in the first third of the semester.

Theoretical and critical readings may include works by Néstor Perlongher, Diego Falconi, Fernando Blanco, Leticia Sabsay, Meri Torras, José Muñoz, Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, Alberto Mira, Brad Epps, Carmen Romero-Bachiller, Raquel (Lucas) Platero, Juana María Rodríguez, María Amelia Viteri, Karma Chávez, Rafael De la Dehesa, Juan Vicente Aliaga, Beatriz Preciado, Nikita Dhawan, Sara Ahmed, Salvador Vidal, and many others.

Primary works will be chosen among those by Pedro Lemebel (solo and as a member of Yeguas del Apocalipsis), Eduardo Mendicutti, Álvaro Pombo, Cristina Peri Rossi, Ana María Moix, José Donoso, Perlongher, Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro, and Manuel Ramos Otero, among other possible authors.

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