

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
Graduate Bulletin  
Spring 2020**

**Course offerings in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Haitian Kreyòl, Hebrew, Italian, Modern Languages and Literatures, Portuguese, and Spanish**

For more information, please contact course instructors or Dr. Christine Arce, Director of Graduate Studies (carce@miami.edu)

**ARABIC**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

ARB 641 Elementary Arabic I for Graduate Students  
ARB 642 Elementary Arabic II for Graduate Students  
ARB 651 Intermediate Arabic I for Graduate Research  
ARB 652 Intermediate Arabic II for Graduate Research  
ARB 654 Advanced Arabic II for Graduate Research  
ARB 658 Advanced Arabic for Graduate Heritage Learners

**CHINESE**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

CHI 641 Elementary Chinese I for Graduate Students  
CHI 642 Elementary Chinese II for Graduate Students  
CHI 651 Intermediate Chinese I for Graduate Research  
CHI 652 Intermediate Chinese II for Graduate Research  
CHI 654 Advanced Chinese for Graduate Research

**FRENCH**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

FRE 641 Elementary French I for Graduate Students  
FRE 642 Elementary French II for Graduate Students  
FRE 645 Accelerated Elementary French for Graduate Students  
FRE 651 Intermediate French I for Graduate Research  
FRE 652 Intermediate French II for Graduate Research  
FRE 653 Advanced French I for Graduate Research

**Graduate seminar (three credits)**

**FRE 721/MLL 721, “Francophone Black Feminisms in Translation”**

**Dr. Cae Joseph-Massena, [cjoseph-massena@miami.edu](mailto:cjoseph-massena@miami.edu)  
Tuesdays 2pm-4:30 pm**

In this course, we consider struggles against racial, gendered and class-oriented constructions of power from a fundamentally transnational point of view by focusing on Black Feminisms across the French-speaking Black Atlantic. We will study the political and the formal stakes of Black Feminist literature, art, and histories, the possibilities its imaginaries generate, as well as the limitations and obstacles these practices necessarily face. The seminar will explore possible answers to this central question: What are the specificities of Black feminisms within francophone Black Atlantic literature, art and histories? In order to consider possible answers, we will attend to the concrete and specific ways in which francophone Black feminist “texts” are producing critique, theory, and new possibilities for individual and collective becoming. We will read works by novelists such as Marie Vieux-Chauvet, Ken Bugul, Maryse Condé and Scholastique Mukusonga as well as works by theorists such as Suzanne Césaire, Jane and Paulette Nardal or Françoise Vergès. The seminar will be held in English with the possibility of reading and submitting material in French. Beyond forming a weekly scholarly question for your peers, as well as article and class summaries, you will give a class presentation, and write an essay that you will present in class in a mock conference setting before turning it in as a scholarly essay.

## **GERMAN**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

GER 641 Elementary German I for Graduate Students  
GER 642 Elementary German II for Graduate Students  
GER 651 Intermediate German I for Graduate Research  
GER 652 Intermediate German II for Graduate Research

## **HAITIAN KREYÒL**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

HAI 642 Elementary Haitian Kreyòl II for Graduate Students  
HAI 652 Intermediate Haitian Kreyòl for Graduate Research

## **HEBREW**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

HEB 642 Elementary Hebrew II for Graduate Students  
HEB 652 Intermediate Hebrew for Graduate Research

## **ITALIAN**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

ITA 641 Elementary Italian I for Graduate Students  
ITA 642 Elementary Italian II for Graduate Students  
ITA 651 Intermediate Italian I for Graduate Research  
ITA 652 Intermediate Italian II for Graduate Research

## **MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

Graduate seminars (three credits)

### **MLL 703 / SPA 721/FRE 721 “Ideologies of Language”**

**Prof. Andrew Lynch, [a.lynch@miami.edu](mailto:a.lynch@miami.edu)**

**Mondays, 5:05- 7:50pm**

In this seminar we will examine the ways in which 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). 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 and cultural issues, highlighting questions of identity, community, (post-)nationalism and nation-ness, institutionality, political authority and cultural authenticity, orality/literacy, and globality/locality. Readings include philosophical and theoretical treatises, sociolinguistic and educational studies, and cultural and literary commentaries. Our focus will be primarily on Spanish-speaking and Francophone societies, but some attention will be given to Anglophone, Arab, Lusophone, and Caribbean Creole settings as well.

### **MLL 714, “Queer Text, Cinema, and Theory in Comparative Context”**

**Dr. Rebecca Doran, [rdoran@miami.edu](mailto:rdoran@miami.edu)**

**Thursdays, 2:00-4:30pm,**

**Merrick 210.01**

This course adopts a comparative approach to explore the rich history of queer writings and gendered subjectivities in diverse contexts through close, critical engagement with a range of literary, historical, and theoretical texts and modern media (film, television). Students will examine traditional understandings of gender and sexuality in cultural contexts including Europe and East Asia and then trace the formation and expression of queer identities and cultures into the contemporary period. Throughout the semester, the course introduces important works of critical theory, paying particular attention to categorizations and structures of sexuality and power, as well as their application (or its limits) across various contexts.

### **MLL 721/ FRE 721, “Francophone Black Feminisms in Translation”**

**Dr. Cae Joseph-Massena, [cjoseph-massena@miami.edu](mailto:cjoseph-massena@miami.edu)**

**Tuesdays 2pm-4:30 pm**

**Merrick 210.01**

In this course, we consider struggles against racial, gendered and class-oriented constructions of power from a fundamentally transnational point of view by focusing on Black Feminisms across the French-speaking Black Atlantic. We will study the political and the formal stakes of Black Feminist literature, art, and histories, the possibilities its imaginaries generate, as well as the limitations and obstacles these practices necessarily face. The seminar will explore possible answers to this central question: What are the specificities of Black feminisms within francophone Black Atlantic literature, art and histories? In order to consider possible answers, we will attend to the concrete and specific ways in which francophone Black feminist “texts” are producing critique, theory, and new possibilities for individual and collective becoming. We will read works by novelists such as Marie Vieux-Chauvet, Ken Bugul, Maryse Condé and Scholastique Mukusonga as well as works by theorists such as Suzanne Césaire, Jane and Paulette Nardal or Françoise Vergès. The seminar will be held in English with the possibility of reading and submitting material in French. Beyond forming a weekly scholarly question for your peers, as well as article and class summaries, you will give a class presentation, and write an essay that you will present in class in a mock conference setting before turning it in as a scholarly essay.

**MLL 772: “Media Studies: Objects, Environments, Methods”**

**Dr. Allison Schifani, [ams611@miami.edu](mailto:ams611@miami.edu)**

**Tuesdays 5-7:30pm**

**Merrick 205**

This course is intended to provide graduate students with a survey of Media Studies as an academic discipline and discursive field. Students will approach a broad range of texts in the field, and outline both its historical development and present state, with a particular focus on emerging theories and practices within Media Studies in the academy. Students will be exposed to media objects as well as theoretical works approaching such objects. Central themes include infrastructure, environment, critical and digital methods, production, and screen cultures.

**PORTUGUESE**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

**POR 642 Elementary Portuguese II for Graduate Students**

**POR 645 Accelerated Elementary Portuguese for Graduate Students**

**POR 651 Intermediate Portuguese I for Graduate Research**

**POR 652 Intermediate Portuguese II for Graduate Research**

Graduate Seminars (three credits)

**POR 691 (Section T) Survey of Brazilian Poetry, “(En)Countering the Canon from Colony to the Contemporary”**

**Dr. Steven Butterman, [butterman@miami.edu](mailto:butterman@miami.edu)**

**Tuesdays /Thursdays, 5:05 - 6:25 pm**

**Dooly Memorial 214**

Portuguese 691 (Brazilian Poetry) surveys over five centuries of the development of Brazilian poetry (from 1500 to 2020), introducing the advanced student of Portuguese to social, political, and literary currents present in Brazilian poetry from the Colonial era to the Baroque period, to Romanticism, to Parnassianism, to Symbolism, to Modernism, to Concretism, to Contemporary Vanguard Movements, to Tropicalism, to Marginal Poetry, to the latest trends in Brazilian lyric (poetry and song) within the last several years. The student will refine critical vocabulary to understand a variety of poetic structures and develop skills to perform rich analyses of verse, utilizing critical writing and reading skills in Portuguese.

## **SPANISH**

Language/culture courses (zero credits; consult Canelink for schedules)

SPA 641 Elementary Spanish I for Graduate Students  
SPA 642 Elementary Spanish II for Graduate Students  
SPA 645 Accelerated Elementary Spanish for Graduate Students  
SPA 647 Basic Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners  
SPA 651 Intermediate Spanish I for Graduate Research  
SPA 652 Intermediate Spanish II for Graduate Research  
SPA 653 Advanced Spanish I for Graduate Research  
SPA 657 Intermediate Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners  
SPA 658 Advanced Spanish for Graduate Heritage Learners

Graduate Seminars (three credits)

**SPA 721/ MLL 703/FRE , “Ideologies of Language”**  
**Prof. Andrew Lynch, a.lynch@miami.edu**  
**Mondays, 5:05- 7:50pm**  
**Merrick 210.01**

In this seminar we will examine the ways in which 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). 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 and cultural issues, highlighting questions of identity, community, (post-)nationalism and nation-ness, institutionality, political authority and cultural authenticity, orality/literacy, and globality/locality. Readings include philosophical and theoretical treatises, sociolinguistic and educational studies, and cultural and literary commentaries. Our focus will be primarily on Spanish-speaking and Francophone societies, but some attention will be given to Anglophone, Arab, Lusophone, and Caribbean Creole settings as well.

**SPA 733 “The Struggle for Representation: Writing, Power and Resistance in the Spanish-American Colonial Period”,**

**Viviana Díaz Balsera, [vdiaz-balsera@miami.edu](mailto:vdiaz-balsera@miami.edu)**

**Wednesdays: 5:00-7:30pm**

**Merrick 210.01**

The European encounter with a continent and peoples in 1492 they had never known opened one of the most dramatic chapters of the early modern period. The colonization of the indigenous peoples from the Americas entailed their insertion by the Spanish monarchy into a universal Catholic *communitas* and into European and transatlantic cultural, political and socio-economic circuits. With special emphasis in Mexico, the course will examine textual and cultural productions throughout the Spanish-American colonial period as multi-vocal spaces in which the Amerindians were narrated, contested, memorialized and vindicated in their pre-Hispanic “gentile” past and colonial “modernity” by Spanish, *criollo*, *mestizo*, and indigenous writers and intellectuals. The struggles to acknowledge, invent and/or contest the difference of indigenous peoples were more than literary or rhetorical gestures; for their debated proximities to or distances from the universal imaginaries of Christianity in these texts were destined to shape the perceived legitimacy of all claims to their place, power and justice in the new regime under the Spanish empire.

The course will include works by Motolinía, Bernardino de Sahagún, Bartolomé de Las Casas, Alvarado Tezozómoc, el Inca Garcilaso, Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and Francisco Javier Clavigero, among others. Some topics that will be explored in the readings are:

- [1] the politics of (universal) natural law
- [2] the theology and anthropology of idolatry
- [3] indigenous polities and cultural translation
- [4] intersections between the Christian preternatural and indigenous epistemologies
- [5] colonial modernity and the subjection of knowledges

The course will be conducted in Spanish but students who do not seek Spanish credit may write their papers and do their presentations in English as well as read the works in translation when available.