

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**  
**Graduate Bulletin**  
**Spring 2023**

**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. Allison Schifani, Director of Graduate Studies (ams611@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 775 / MLL 726 “FRANCOPHONE BLACK FEMINISMS IN TRANSLATION”**

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

**Tuesdays, 11:00am-1:45pm**

**Merrick Building 210-01 (Conference Room)**

This course centers key literary texts, films and music authored by Black and Brown women and non-binary folks within francophone worlds. Because the African diasporic experience is always already in translation, and because of the tangential relationship between U.S. Black feminisms and francophone Black feminisms in particular, we will pair each text with an array of critical essays belonging to Black feminist epistemologies from an array of linguistic traditions as well as cultural/theoretical frameworks. This course aims to ponder on the following questions: what are the specificities of francophone Black women's experiences and modes of world and meaning-making? How can their aesthetics, depicted struggles, delineated modes of embodiment, relationship to space, time, nation, history, consciousness or what it means to be (in)human help expand our understanding of the contemporary worlds?

## **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 701: Intro to Second Language Teaching: Theory and Practice**

**Dr. Ager Gondra ([ager.gondra@miami.edu](mailto:ager.gondra@miami.edu))**

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

**Merrick 210.01 (Conference Room)**

This course will bring the theory and practice of second language teaching together, as teaching is necessarily based on a theoretical foundation and theory is directly impacted by the realities of the classroom. In this seminar students will: 1) discuss current theories of linguistics and second language acquisition; 2) learn about different second language teaching methods, particularly communicative language teaching (CLT) and task-based language teaching (TBLT); 3) acquire reflective experience in second language teaching by engaging in teaching demonstrations and observations; and 4) develop a teaching portfolio.

## **MLL 714: Decolonial Thinking and Its Critiques**

**Dr. George Yúdice ([gyudice@miami.edu](mailto:gyudice@miami.edu))**

**Tuesdays, 5:00pm-7:45pm**

**Merrick 210-01 (Conference Room)**

This course focuses on decolonial theory, critiques of it, and the analysis, informed by both, of a range of texts and phenomena (performances, insurgencies like the Arab Spring or the 15M in Spain, social media, etc.) proposed by the students. As Nelson Maldonado-Torres writes, “The decolonial turn does not refer to a single theoretical school, but rather points to a family of diverse positions that share a view of coloniality as a fundamental problem in the modern (as well as postmodern and information) age, and of decolonization or decoloniality as a necessary task that remains unfinished” (“Thinking through the Decolonial Turn: Post-continental Interventions in Theory, Philosophy, and Critique—An Introduction”). While decolonial theory emerged as a recognizable academic enterprise at the beginning of the twenty-first century, it has historical precedents in the work of figures such as W.E.B. Dubois, Frantz Fanon, and post-60s figures such as Sylvia Wynter, Enrique Dussel, Aníbal Quijano, Sylvia Rivera Cusicanqui and others, as well as the formulators of the term: Walter D. Mignolo, Ramón Grosfoguel, Chela Sandoval, Catherine Walsh, Maldonado-Torres himself and others. Out of this work, I would like to focus on two scholarly tendencies: the epistemic, understanding how the twin figures of coloniality and modernity subjugated a range of knowledges, and how those knowledges can be manifest in the present; the corporeal, on the one hand, examining how the body figures among those who have been excluded from the production of knowledge in modernity, and on the other, the continuing coloniality of the body and ensuing forms of subjectivity in so-called Western subjects. With regard to the first focus, particularly with regard to the present, I would like to look critically at decolonial thinking by considering an affirmative rather than repressive conception of biopower, especially in an era of flows that diffuse borders. With regard to the second, I would like to accompany decolonial thinking with affect theory’s focus on subjectivity emerging out of the encounter of bodies (not just human ones), as an effect of a matrix of moving lines of force, travelling through us and leaving power in their wake. In addition to these theoretical readings, I would like to begin the analysis of texts and other phenomena with a reading of Edouard Glissant’s *A Poetics of Relation* and what could be considered a tragic vision insofar as what we ignore or don’t know about the world in our moral and political knowledge and decision-making continues to affect us. That is, there is no complete liberation from coloniality and various ways of working through it may have to be innovated. Students will propose other texts and phenomena to be examined under the light of decoloniality theory and its critiques

**Methodologically**, each session will be divided into discussions of decoloniality theory and its critiques and examination of the texts and phenomena proposed by the students. For each session, students will make presentations on the different readings, and also comment on the texts and other phenomena that they have proposed. The last four sessions are reserved for theoretical and other readings (and viewings) that the students propose.

**MLL 726 / FRE 775: FRANCOPHONE BLACK FEMINISMS IN TRANSLATION**

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

**Tuesdays, 11:00am-1:45pm**

**Merrick Building 210-01 (Conference Room)**

This course centers key literary texts, films and music authored by Black and Brown women and non-binary folks within francophone worlds. Because the African diasporic experience is always already in translation, and because of the tangential relationship between U.S. Black feminisms and francophone Black feminisms in particular, we will pair each text with an array of critical essays belonging to Black feminist epistemologies from an array of linguistic traditions as well as cultural/theoretical frameworks. This course aims to ponder on the following questions: what are the specificities of francophone Black women's experiences and modes of world and meaning-making? How can their aesthetics, depicted struggles, delineated modes of embodiment, relationship to space, time, nation, history, consciousness or what it means to be (in)human help expand our understanding of the contemporary worlds?

**MLL 774 / ENG 613: Practicum in Digital Humanities**

**Dr. Susanna Allés-Torrent ([sxa985@miami.edu](mailto:sxa985@miami.edu))**

**Thursdays 5:00pm-7:45pm**

**Merrick Building 205**

This seminar has an experiential, hands-on and project-based component and aims to offer students the possibility to apply their learning in the field of Digital Humanities and move forward on their personal research project. It will offer a set of practical skills that go from general principles of computing, web technologies, command line, electronic text analysis and distant reading, text encoding and XML markups, mapping, and network visualization. Students should expect to carry out many practical exercises with programming languages and digital tools, conduct a relatively small amount of readings, and work towards a digital final project.

**PORTUGUESE**

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 seminar (Three credits)**

**POR 691/322: LGBTQIAP+ Brazil: Queering & Querying the Paradise of Paradox**

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

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00pm-3:15pm**

**Merrick Building 210-01 (Conference Room)**

This is the graduate section of an interdisciplinary, multimedia cultural studies course. We examine the relationship between burgeoning critical socio-political movements and institutions and the language discourses used to configure and conceptualize them. More specifically, we will study characteristics that make life unique for sexual minorities in today's Brazil while also viewing Brazil in relation to global LGBTQ+ sociopolitical movements, critically assess the complex relationship(s) between the visual arts and political activism, carefully analyzing artistic representations of LGBTQ identities through photography, film, literature, visual arts, music, and other sources. Our journey together will also embark on interrogating the usefulness and the challenges of Brazil as a case study for understanding the cultivation of ambiguity in contemporary (re)constructions of queer life. As such, we will conduct a discourse analysis of the dynamics and features of the largest LGBT Pride Parade in the world (São Paulo, Brazil), while examining the limits and the potential of creating theoretical frameworks invested in promoting linkages between political activism and academic scholarship. Finally, we will analyze the intricacies of terminology Brazilian sexual and gender minorities have adopted and adapted, illustrating the development of LGBTQ+ identities through performative language use. MLL graduate students must conduct all written assignments 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 Seminar (Three credits)**

**SPA 736: The Invention of México**

**Dr. Christine Arce ([carce@miami.edu](mailto:carce@miami.edu))**

**Thursdays, 9:30 am-12:15pm**

**Merrick Building 210-01 (Conference Room)**

This graduate course will engage the histories and cultural productions that have largely shaped the myths surrounding Mexican culture, music, and practices, such as “the Day of the Dead” or the “fandango”, as well as the global circulation and appropriation of its icons (Moctezoma, Malinche, Emiliano Zapata, Frida Kahlo, Subcomandante Marcos, el Chapo, “el mojado”, etc.).

We will pay close attention to indigenous cultures (past and present) and historical moments, such as the Spanish invasion and the Mexican Revolution; the myth of mestizaje; and political and social movements, such as the Zapatista insurgency and the “movimiento jaranero”. We will also address issues related to Mexican immigration, drug culture, and the stereotypes of the Mexican migrant. Our conversations will be grounded in our analysis of diverse primary sources, ranging from codices, music, popular poetry (corridos), danza conchera, baile folclórico, film and literature.

Class presence and active participation, weekly presentations and response papers, and two shorter research paper will constitute the core requirements.

Readings will be in Spanish and English. Discussion can be bilingual (Spanish /English) for those whose primary research language is not Spanish. Final Papers can be written in Spanish, English or Portuguese.