European Cultural Studies

Objectives

European cultural studies (ECS) offers students the opportunity to study English and continental literature in translation in conjunction with one or more related disciplines: fine arts, history, music, philosophy, politics, sociology, and theater arts.

Students will be able to count appropriate courses taken in clusters toward the ECS major.

ECS is for those students who feel intellectually adventurous, who want to explore the interrelationships of literature with various other disciplines in order to gain a broader perspective of what constitutes “culture.” With the advent of an everchanging Europe, students in ECS will be better prepared, in all areas, to keep abreast with current and future events.

Many of our students spend some time abroad to get a feel for the cultures in which they are most interested. ECS majors have gone on to graduate schools (in history, politics, English, and other fields), have entered law school, business school, and advanced programs in international studies.

How to Become a Major

It is highly advisable that students make a decision no later than the middle of their sophomore year in order to take full advantage of the ECS major.

Normally, students will choose to focus on either the early period (from the Middle Ages to the mid-1700s) or the modern period (from mid-1700s to the present day). Variations within the scheme can be worked out with the coordinator.

Each major will plan a program in consultation with the coordinator.

Committee

Stephen Dowden, Coordinator and Undergraduate Advising Head
[German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature]

Rudolph Binion
[History]

Dian Fox
[Spanish]

Jane Hale
[French]

Gila Hayim
[Sociology]

Arthur Holmberg
[Theater Arts]

Edward Kaplan
[Romance and Comparative Literature]

Jytte Klausen
[Politics]

Richard Lansing
[Italian]

Robin Feuer Miller
[German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature]

Paul Morrison
[English and American Literature]

Jessica Ann Owens
[Music]

Antony Polonsky
[Near Eastern and Judaic Studies]

Jerry Samet
[Philosophy]

Nancy Scott
[Fine Arts]

Requirements for Major

The major consists of 10 semester courses [11 if the student elects to write a thesis].

A. ECS 100a [The Proseminar], to be completed, if possible, no later than the junior year.

B. Two comparative literature seminars, or HUM 10a [The Western Canon] and one comparative literature seminar. The student is particularly encouraged to select this second course from COML 102a through COML 106b. Any COML offering is acceptable, however, as long as its subject matter is European and it is otherwise relevant to the student’s program.

C. Three courses in European literature. The six European literatures offered are English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. The foreign literature courses listed below have been specifically designed for use in the ECS curriculum and are taught in translation. Courses in English literature may be used to fulfill this requirement. For courses in comparative literature consult the appropriate section of this Bulletin.

D. Three courses selected from the following seven related disciplines: fine arts, history, history of ideas, music, philosophy, politics, sociology, and theater arts. In consultation with the coordinator, students may be able to use courses from additional departments (e.g., NEJS, anthropology, etc.) so long as such courses are appropriate to the student’s program in ECS.

E. Students who elect to write a Senior Thesis will enroll in ECS 99d. Before enrolling, students should consult with the coordinator. An appropriate GPA is required to undertake the writing of a thesis. Honors are awarded on the basis of cumulative GPA in the major and the grade on the honors thesis.

F. All seniors not enrolling in ECS 99d (that is, not electing to write a Senior Thesis) have a choice of electing one additional course in any of the three segments of the major: either an additional course in comparative literature, or an additional course in any of the six European literatures, or an additional course in any of the seven related areas.
Special Notes Relating to Undergraduates

Courses in the seven related disciplines are generally available for ECS majors. Any questions should be addressed directly to the appropriate representative of the department (fine arts, Ms. Scott; history, Mr. Binion; music, Ms. Owens; philosophy, Mr. Samet; politics, Ms. Klausen; sociology, Ms. Hayim; theater arts, Mr. Holmberg).

Courses of Instruction

[1-99] Primarily for Undergraduate Students

ECS 98a Independent Study
May be taken only by majors with the written permission of the ECS program coordinator. Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year. Staff

ECS 98b Independent Study
May be taken only by majors with the written permission of the ECS program coordinator. Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year. Staff

ECS 99d Senior Thesis
Signature of the instructor required. This course is independent research under the supervision of the thesis director. Usually offered every year. Staff

[100-199] For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

ECS 100a European Cultural Studies: The Proseminar
[hum] Refer to the University Writing section of this Bulletin for information regarding applicability to the writing intensive requirement. Enrollment limited to 18. May be repeated for credit with the permission of the ECS coordinator. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003 and the spring of 2004. The theme for fall 2003: modernism. The theme for spring 2004: making modernity. Mr. Dowden (fall) Mr. Randall (spring)

European Literature

The following courses are appropriate for the ECS major and his or her respective foreign literature majors: French, German, Russian, and Spanish. The course abbreviations have the following values:

FECS = French and European Cultural Studies

GECS = German and European Cultural Studies

IECS = Italian and European Cultural Studies

RECS = Russian and European Cultural Studies

SECS = Spanish and European Cultural Studies

French

FECS 134a Women and Moralists in the Ancien Régime
[hum] Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. Examines women's part in changing the literary, artistic, intellectual, and political culture of the 17th- and 18th-century French monarchy. Topics include salons and social mobility, learned ladies and renegade nuns, science and morality, and subverting authority. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002. Ms. Harth

FECS 145a Topics in French Fiction in Translation
[hum] Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. Power, passion, creativity in the French Novel. Major novels of the 19th and 20th centuries by Balzac, Stendhal, George Sand, Flaubert, Zola, and Proust reflect France's social and political upheavals. Topics include psychological analysis, revolution and class conflicts, male and female relationships, the creative process. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2001. Mr. Kaplan

GECS = German and European Cultural Studies

ECS majors are encouraged to pursue study abroad, either in England or on the continent. Credit will be applied for appropriate equivalent courses. Interested students should consult with the coordinator and the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

German

GECS 118a Seduction and Enlightenment (formerly GECS 108a)
[hum] Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken GECS 108a in previous years. Explores the dialectic of reason and the irrational from the late 18th century in Germany and Austria until their collapse in World War I. Works by Beethoven, Kant, Mendelssohn, Goethe, Lessing, Mozart, Heine, Novalis, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Thomas Mann, and others. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2000. Ms. von Mering

GECS 119b Nietzsche to Postmodern (formerly 109b)
[hum] Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken GECS 109b in previous years. Explores the dialectic of reason and the irrational from the late 19th century in Germany and Austria to the present. Works by Adorno, Benjamin, Brecht, Celan, Habermas, Heidegger, Jünger, Kiefer, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Nietzsche, Schoenberg, Spengler, and Expressionist painting and film. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004. Mr. Dowden

GECS 150a From Rapunzel to Riefenstahl: Real and Imaginary Women in German Culture
[hum] Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. Exploring German cultural representations of women and real women's responses. From fairy-tale princess to Nazi filmmaker, from 18th-century infanticide to 20th-century femme fatale, from beautiful soul to feminist dramatist, from revolutionary to minority writer. Readings include major literary works, feminist criticism, and film. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2002. Ms. von Mering
European Cultural Studies

GECS 155a Modern German Jewish History [hum]
Course to be taught at Brandeis summer program in Berlin.
Study of Germany and the European Jews from the period of emancipation in the late 18th and early 19th century to the present. Examines the role of German Jews in German politics, economic life, and culture, the rise of anti-Semitism in the 19th century, the Nazi government's anti-Jewish policies to the post-war period. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the summer of 2003.
Mr. Sheppard and Ms. Von Mering

GECS 167a German Cinema: Vamps and Angels [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken GECS 165a in fall of 2001.
From silent film to Leni Riefenstahl and Nazi cinema, from post-war cinema in East and West to New German film after unification, this course traces aesthetic strategies, reflections on history, memory, subjectivity, political, cultural, and film-historical contexts. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.
Ms. Von Mering

GECS 170a Viennese Modernism 1890-1938 [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. Enrollment limited to 20.
Mr. Dowden

GECS 180b European Modernism and the German Novel [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.
A study of selected novelists writing after Nietzsche and before the end of World War II. This course will explore the culture, concept, and the development of European modernism in works by Broch, Canetti, Döblin, Jünger, Kafka, Mann, Musil, Rilke, and Roth. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.
Mr. Dowden

GECS 182a Franz Kafka [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Enrollment limited to 20.
A detailed exploration of Kafka's works, life, and thought. Emphasis is given to his place in the larger scheme of literary modernism. Usually offered every third year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Mr. Dowden

GECS 185b Contemporary German Fiction [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.
Explores the postmodernist rejection of the German tradition in fiction after the World War II, a many-faceted confrontation with German history and organized amnesia that has continued into the present. Works by Koeppen, Grass, Johnson, Bernhard, Handke, Bachmann, Seghers, Treichel, Sebald, and others. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.
Mr. Dowden

GECS 190b German Masterworks [hum]
Offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the intensely detailed study of a single masterpiece of pivotal importance. Any one of the following works, but only one, is selected for study in a given semester: Goethe's Faust (parts I and II), Nietzsche's Thus Spake Zarathustra, Kafka's Castle, Musil's Man Without Qualities, Thomas Mann's Doctor Faustus, Walter Benjamin's Origin of German Tragic Drama; Celan's Sprachgitter. Usually offered every year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.
Mr. Dowden

Italian

IECS 135a Shifting Grounds: Social Change in Italian Fiction and Film [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.
Charts various aspects of social change in Italian society and culture through close readings and discussions of literary and cinematic texts by Manzoni, Verga, Pirandello Silone, Morante, Calvino, Rossellini, de Sica, Fellini, Pasolini, and Bertolucci, among others. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the spring of 1999.
Mr. Mandrell

IECS 140a Dante’s Divine Comedy [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.
A close study of the entire poem—Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso—as a symbolic vision of reality reflecting the culture and thought—political, philosophical, theological—of the Middle Ages. Readings will include two minor works, the Vita Nuova and World Government. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Mr. Lansing

IECS 150a Jewish Identity and Italian Culture [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.
Aims to discuss Jewish identity in contemporary Italian culture and provide an overview of the formation and transformation of the Jewish Italian community. Students read prose, poetry, essays, and articles, as well as view films that address issues of religious and national identity. Authors include Giorgio Bassani, Primo Levi, Rosetta Loy, among others. Special one-time offering. Was offered in the spring of 2003.
Mr. Parussa

Russian

RECS 130a Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.
A comprehensive survey of the major works and authors of the 19th century including Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and others. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Ms. Miller

RECS 131a Twentieth-Century Russian Literature [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.
A comprehensive survey of the major works and authors of the Soviet and post-Soviet eras. Readings include works by Bulgakov, Pasternak, Akhmatova, Solzhenitsyn, and Terts. The final portion of the course considers literature emerging in the post-Soviet era. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.
Staff

RECS 134b Chekhov [hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.
Offers a detailed investigation of the evolution of Chekhov's art, emphasizing the thematic and structural aspects of Chekhov's works. Attention paid to methods of characterization, use of detail, narrative technique, and the roles into which he casts his audience. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2000.
Ms. Miller
RECS 135a The Short Story in Russia
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Focuses on the short story in Russian. This genre has always invited stylistic and narrative experimentation, as well as being a vehicle for the striking, if brief expression of complex social, religious, and philosophical themes. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2002.
Ms. Miller

RECS 137a Women in Russian Literature
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Examines questions of female representation and identity, and of female authorship. Readings include portrayals of women by male and female authors. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.
Ms. Miller

RECS 146a Dostoevsky
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. A comprehensive survey of Dostoevsky's life and works, with special emphasis on the major novels. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 2003.
Ms. Miller

RECS 147b Tolstoy
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Studies the major short stories and novels of Leo Tolstoy against the backdrop of 19th-century history and with reference to 20th-century critical theory. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.
Ms. Miller

RECS 148a Russian Drama
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken RUS 148a and RUS 148b in previous years. Examines the rich tradition of Russian drama and theater. Readings will include works from the 19th and 20th centuries with concentrated study of Chekhov and works by Pushkin, Gogol, Gorky, Mayakovksy, and others. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Mr. Pewelstock

RECS 149b Russian Literature, Art, Film, and Theater, 1900-30
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Focuses on the three decades from 1900 to 1930 and their various artistic movements as reflected in literature, painting, and theater. Explores the interrelationships between artistic movements and the political scene. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.
Staff

RECS 154a Nabokov
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. A concentrated study of Vladimir Nabokov, the most noted Russian author living in emigration and one of the most influential novelists of the 20th century. Study focuses on the novels, but readings will also include lectures and autobiography. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.
Staff

RECS 155a From Witches to Wood Spirits: Russian Culture to 1800
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Examines works of major East European (Polish, Czech, Russian, and other) authors with readings in English translation. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2002.
Ms. Chevalier

RECS 160a Contemporary East European Literature
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. Examines works of major East European (Polish, Czech, Russian, and other) authors in the historical context of late Communist and post-Communist experience. Special attention to reading for artistic qualities and engagement of historical and political problems. Conducted in English. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Mr. Powelstock

SECS 150a Golden Age Drama and Society
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. The major works, comic and tragic, of Spain’s 17th-century dramatists. We will consider Cervantes’s brief witty farces; Tirso’s creation of the “Don Juan” myth; Lope’s palace and “peasant honor” plays; and Calderón’s Baroque masterpieces, which culminate Spain’s Golden Age. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.
Ms. Fox

SECS 169a Travel Writing and the Americas: Columbus’s Legacy
[hum]
Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. The course’s purpose is to familiarize the student with the vicissitudes of the figure of Christopher Columbus, in literature, selected historiographical works, and those texts that have come down to us as his. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the fall of 2000.
Ms. Pérez

A Selected List of Courses

For comparative literature, consult the comparative literature offerings in this Bulletin; for English literature, consult the offerings under the Department of English and American Literature.

The following courses from the various departments associated with ECS represent, in most instances, a mere selection from among the total courses in that department that “count” toward the completion of the ECS major. For full descriptions consult the appropriate department. Be sure to consult the offerings under the Department of Theater Arts for ECS courses although they are not cross-listed. Check with the coordinator for a listing.

English

ENG 114b Gender and the Rise of the Novel in England and France

Fine Arts

FA 58b High and Late Renaissance in Italy

FA 60a Baroque in Italy and Spain

FA 70a Paris/New York: Revolutions of Modernism

FA 71a Modern Art and Modern Culture
PA 170b
Nineteenth-Century European Painting and Sculpture

History
HIST 52b
Europe from 1789 to the Present
HIST 132a
European Thought and Culture: Marlowe to Mill
HIST 132b
European Thought and Culture since Darwin

History of Ideas
HOID 101a
Thinking about Ethics with Socraties
HOID 108b
Greek and Roman Ethics: From Plato to the Stoics
HOID 120a
Immorality, Its Sources, Varieties and Attractions

HOID 127a
Seminar in the History of Ideas: Case Studies

Music
MUS 42a
The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach
MUS 43a
Mozart and Eros
MUS 45a
Beethoven
MUS 56b
Romanticism and Music
MUS 57a
Music and Culture: From Romanticism to the Modern Era
MUS 65a
The Music, the Arts, and Ideas in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

Philosophy
PHIL 113b
Aesthetics: Painting, Photography, and Film
PHIL 138a
Metaphysics

Politics
POL 11b
Introduction to Comparative Government: Europe
POL 156b
West European Political Systems
POL 181b
Red Flags/Black Flags: Marxism vs. Anarchism, 1845-1968
POL 194a
Politics and the Novel

Sociology
SOC 2a
Introduction to Sociological Theory
SOC 141a
Marx and Freud
SOC 164a
Existential Sociology

An interdepartmental program

Film Studies

Objectives
Film studies is an interdisciplinary liberal arts program offering insight into motion picture media. Broadly understood to encompass inquiry into the aesthetics, history, and cultural meanings of the moving image, the Film Studies Program has two primary goals: to offer an informed background in motion picture history and to develop a critical appreciation of the cultural meanings of film. It is a not a preprofessional program emphasizing technical skills but a humanities-based course of study stressing inquiry into film style and content, film history, and the relationships between film and culture.

The curriculum is designed to provide a broad overview of the history of the moving image, to develop expertise in cinematic style and cultural meaning, to lend theoretical sophistication to an understanding of the moving image, and to ensure some appreciation of the practical and technical side of motion picture production. A field especially congenial to interdisciplinary inquiry, film studies is a practical complement to a range of established majors for which an expertise in visual style and motion picture history is becoming ever more important—American studies, English and American literature, fine arts, history, politics, sociology, and theater arts.

How to Become a Minor
The program is open to all Brandeis undergraduates. To enroll in the program, consult with a member of the film studies committee and fill out declaration forms from the Office of Academic Affairs. Students who complete the requirements of the program receive film studies certificates and notations on their transcripts.
Committee

Thomas Doherty, Chair [American Studies]

Pamela Allara [Fine Arts]
Eric Chasalow [Music]
Sylvia Fishman [Near Eastern and Judaic Studies]
Eric Harth [Romance and Comparative Literature]
James Mandrell [Romance and Comparative Literature]
Laura Quinney [English and American Literature]

Requirements for the Program

Students must complete six courses:
A. Core course: FILM 100a [Introduction to the Moving Image].
B. An approved film studies seminar or research project usually taken in the senior year. The senior seminar or research project, which requires permission of the instructor, is designed to function as a capstone experience to the Film Studies Program, an occasion to demonstrate a sophisticated mastery of the history, style, and cultural impact of the moving image.
C. Four additional courses from the approved film studies curriculum, which must include one course in a non-American cinema and one course in some creative aspect of film production.

Courses of Instruction

[1-99] Primarily for Undergraduate Students

FILM 92a Internship in Film Studies
Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year.
Staff

FILM 92b Internship in Film Studies
Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year.
Staff

FILM 98a Independent Study
Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year.
Staff

FILM 98b Independent Study
Signature of the instructor required. Usually offered every year.
Staff

[100-199] For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

FILM 100a Introduction to the Moving Image
[ca hum ]
An interdisciplinary course surveying the history of moving image media from 1895 to the present, from the earliest silent cinema to the age of the 500-channel cable television. Open to all undergraduates as an elective, it is the introductory course for the Film Studies Program (Minor). Usually offered every year.
Ms. Allara or Mr. Doherty

Electives

The following courses are approved for the program. Not all are given in any one year. Please consult the Course Schedule each semester.

AMST 111a Images of the American West in Film and Culture
AMST 112b American Film and Culture of the 1950s
AMST 113a American Film and Culture of the 1940s
AMST 113b American Film and Culture of the 1930s
AMST 114a American Film and Culture of the 1920s
AMST 130b Television and American Culture
AMST 131b News on Screen
ANTH 26a Communication and Media
COML 135b Sexualities and Cinema
ENG 147a Film Noir
ENG 177a Films of Hitchcock
THA 155a Icons of Masculinity

Courses in Non-American Cinema

FECS 157a Topics in French Film
GEC 165a German Film in Cultural Context
GEC 167a German Cinema
HBRW 104a Israeli Films
RECS 149b Twentieth-Century Russian Literature, Art, Film, and Theater

Courses in Creative Aspects of Film Production

AMST 196d Film Workshop: Recording America
MUS 107a Introduction to Electro-Acoustic Music
THA 50b Sound for Theater, Film, and Television
THA 52b Fundamentals of Lighting

Senior Seminars

AMST 120b Film Theory and Criticism
COML 195a Feminism and Film
FA 102a American Avant-Garde Film and Video