

An interdepartmental program

European Cultural Studies

Courses of Study:
Major (B.A.)

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)

Jessie 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).

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.

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

FECS 157a Topics in French Film

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. May be repeated for credit with special permission.

The topic for fall 2003: The New Wave. From the 1950s on, the innovations of the French New Wave have influenced film in France and abroad. Filmmakers to be studied include Godard, Chabrol, Melville, Rivette, Rohmer, Truffaut, and Varda. Usually offered every third year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Ms. Harth

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

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.

An interdisciplinary exploration of cultural and intellectual life in Vienna from the end of the Habsburg era to the rise of Nazism: film, music, painting, theater, fiction, philosophy, psychology, and physics. Works by Berg, Broch, Canetti, Freud, Hofmannsthal, Klimt, Kraus, Mach, Mahler, Musil, Schoenberg, Webern, Wittgenstein, and others. Usually offered every fourth year. Last offered in the fall of 2001.

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 writers and themes 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 great tradition of the short story in Russia. 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, Mayakovsky, and others. Usually offered every second year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Powelstock

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.

Explores the relationship of culture to society and religion in Russia through the 18th century. Examines the interactions of diverse forms of artistic expression, presenting examples from visual art, music, architecture, and popular culture, giving special attention to Russia's rich folk heritage. Usually offered every second year. Last 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

Spanish**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

FA 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 Socrates

HOID 108b

Greek and Roman Ethics: From Plato to the Stoics

HOID 120a

Immortality, 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

Courses of Study:
Minor

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 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)

Erica 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

GECS 165a
German Film in Cultural Context

GECS 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