

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:
Major (B.A.)

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)

Jessie Ann Owens
(Music)

Antony Polonsky
(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

Michael Randall
(Romance and Comparative Literature)

Jerry Samet
(Philosophy)

Nancy Scott
(Fine Arts)

Requirements for the Major

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

A. ECS 100a or b (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.

Special Note About Courses

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

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.

Usually offered every year.
 Staff

ECS 98b Independent Study

May be taken only by majors with the written permission of the ECS program coordinator.

Usually offered every year.
 Staff

ECS 99d Senior Thesis

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 Proseminar: Modernism

[hum wi]

Explores the interrelationship of literature, music, painting, philosophy, and other arts in the era of high modernism. Works by Artaud, Baudelaire, Benjamin, Mann, Mahler, Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Kandinsky, Schiele, Beckett, Brecht, Adorno, Sartre, Heidegger and others. Usually offered every fall semester.

Mr. Dowden

ECS 100b European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity

[hum wi]

May not be repeated for credit by students who took ECS 100a in the spring semester with Mr. Randall in prior years.

Investigates how the paradigm of what we know as modernity came into being. We will look at the works of writers and philosophers such as Descartes, Aquinas, Dante, Ockham, Petrarch, Ficino, Rabelais, and Montaigne. Artwork from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance will be used to understand better what "the modern" means. Usually offered every spring semester.

Mr. Randall

French

FECS 115a French Existentialism: An Introduction

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English. Readings and essays in French for French majors.

Sarte and Camus are known as the founders of French existentialism, a philosophy of the absurd, radical freedom, and responsibility. Studies them and other writers on ethnic and female identity in light of war, colonialism, and the Holocaust. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Kaplan

FECS 117a Jewish Identities in France since 1945

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation with French originals available.

After the Holocaust, French thinkers such as Sartre, Levinas, and Memmi provided a foundation for reconstructing Jewish life. Topics include assimilation, Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews, Muslim, black, and Jewish identity, the role of women, secularism, ethics, and religious faith. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Kaplan

FECS 134a 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.

Staff

FECS 157a French Film

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. May be repeated for credit with special permission. Refer to the Schedule of Classes each semester for additional topic description.

Topic for spring 2005 is The New Wave: Impact and Influence. The French cinematic innovations of the 1950s and 1930s known as the New Wave transformed both French and international cinema. Looks at work by some key New Wave filmmakers (Melville, Varda, Truffaut, Godard, Resnais, Chabrol, Rohmer) in their relation to international and American film. Also compares certain New Wave films to much later films by the same filmmaker. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Harth

German**GECS 118a Seduction and Enlightenment**

[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.

Ms. von Mering

GECS 119b Nietzsche to Postmodernism

[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, Junger, Kiefer, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Nietzsche, Schoenberg, Spengler, and Expressionist painting and film. Usually offered every second year.

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.

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.

Mr. Sheppard and Ms. von Mering

GECS 160a In the Shadow of the Holocaust: Global Encounters

[hum]

Traces the experience of German exiles in different parts of the world. Addresses issues of identity, linguistic displacement, problems of integration, (post-)colonial encounters, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, nostalgia, and the experience of those who eventually returned to Germany. Usually offered every third year.

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 with an emphasis on gender issues. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. von Mering

GECS 170a Viennese Modernism 1890-1938

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.

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.

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, Doblin, Jünger, Kafka, Mann, Musil, Rilke, and Roth. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Dowden

GECS 182a Franz Kafka

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English.

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.

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 World War II, a multi-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.

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.

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 third year.

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.

Mr. Lansing

Russian**RECS 130a The Russian Novel**

[hum wi]

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.

Ms. Miller

RECS 131a Nature, Man and Machine: 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.

An introduction to the major works and authors of Modernist, Soviet, and post-Soviet eras, including the Emigration. Readings include works by Mayakovsky, Bely, Babel, Bulgakov, Nabokov, Akhmatova, Solzhenitsyn, and Pelevin. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

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 second year.

Ms. Miller

RECS 135a From Pushkin to Chekhov: 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.

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 men and women authors. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

RECS 146a Dostoevsky: Gods and Monsters

[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 second year.

Ms. Miller

RECS 147b Tolstoy: Freedom, Chance, and Necessity

[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.

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 include masterpieces of the 19th and 20th centuries, including those by Chekhov, Pushkin, Gogol, Ostrovsky, Mayakovsky, Erdman, and others. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

RECS 149b The Rise and Fall of Russian Modernism: Cultural and Political Revolutions 1900-1934

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.

An interdisciplinary immersion in the period, emphasizing the connections between historical and artistic trends, and employing prominent theories of culture. Focuses on major figures, works and events in film, literature, the performing and visual arts, and political, philosophical and religious thought. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

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. Focuses on the major novels. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

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.

Ms. Chevalier

RECS 160a Contemporary East European Literature

[hum]

Open to all students. Conducted in English. 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. Usually offered every second year.

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. Texts may include Cervantes's brief witty farces, Tirso's creation of the "Don Juan" myth, Lope's palace and "peasant honor" plays, and Calderon's Baroque masterpieces, which culminate Spain's Golden Age. Usually offered every second year.

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. Following the arrival of Columbus, the continent later known as America engaged with other continents in a mutual process of cultural, historical, geographical, and economic representation. The development of some of those representations is explored, beginning with travel writing and ending with recent images of the Encounter. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Pérez

Cross-Listed Courses

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.

FA 40b
The Formation of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Art

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

FA 177b
Twentieth-Century European Art and Architecture in Berlin

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

HIST 133b
Rights and Revolutions: History of Natural Rights

MUS 42a
The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach

MUS 45a
Beethoven

MUS 56b
Romanticism and Music

MUS 57a
Music and Culture: From Romanticism to the Modern Era

MUS 65a
Music, the Arts, and Ideas in *Fin-de-Siecle* Vienna

PHIL 113b
Aesthetics: Painting, Photography, and Film

PHIL 138a
Metaphysics

POL 11b
Introduction to Comparative Government: Europe

POL 156b
West European Political Systems

POL 194a
Politics and the Novel

SOC 10b
Introduction to Sociological Theory

SOC 141a
Marx and Freud

SOC 164a
Existential Sociology