

RLL GRADUATE SEMINARS & SELECTED COURSES OF INTEREST

WINTER 2023 Featured Courses

FRENCH 679 Postcolonial Theory: Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches

Prof. Adi Saleem Bharat

Mon 3-6 pm

#33441

This course introduces students to a wide range of perspectives and approaches within postcolonial studies and decolonial thinking to understanding race and racism, empire and colonialism, and slavery and genocide. Given the transnational nature of colonialism, we will adopt a comparative approach, focusing on a variety of colonial and post-colonial settings from France and Algeria to the United Kingdom and Malaya. Selected theorists include Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Sylvia Winter, James Baldwin, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Suzanne Césaire, Syed Hussein Alatas, Françoise Vergès, Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí, Audre Lorde, Chandra Mohanty, and Linda Tuhiwai Smith. This course is taught in English. All readings will be in English or English translations.

SPANISH 830 Film and Society: Violence and Cultural Production in Latin America

Prof. Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola

Thur 1-4 pm

#33439

Este seminario explora la violencia como mercancía cultural a través de una serie de textos teóricos sobre la violencia (Benjamin, Arendt, Lawrence and Karim), la industria y el campo culturales (Adorno, Bourdieu). Tomando el caso de Colombia como emblemático de la realidad social de América Latina en su conjunto, estudiaremos escenarios violentos que se mercantilizan fácilmente en la ficción (Vásquez, Restrepo, Vallejo), el cine (Pájaros de verano, Monos) y el arte de mayor venta (Botero, Salcedo), y se comercializan con éxito en América del Norte y Europa. En particular, prestaremos atención a las tendencias del mercado literario y cultural que refuerzan el conocimiento de los lectores sobre el “lado más oscuro” de América Latina--por ejemplo, violaciones de derechos humanos, secuestros, guerra contra el narcotráfico, experiencias traumáticas colectivas o dificultades económicas, centrándonos en conflictos locales elegidos por el interés que atraen en el mercado global. También estudiaremos el “boom” del “nuevo cine” colombiano surgido en las últimas décadas en el contexto de las negociaciones y la firma de los Acuerdos de Paz (2012-2018). Asimismo, prestaremos especial atención a la articulación de la violencia, el conflicto y la reconciliación nacional estudiando las nuevas formas de representación visual propuestas por cineastas como William Vega, Ciro Guerra, Cristina Gallego, Jorge Forero, o Alejandro Landes. Para explorar estas prácticas visuales propuestas por estos cineastas, leeremos textos sobre la “hapticidad”, “tactilidad visual” y “materialidad visual” (L. Marks, G. Bruno) para investigar nuevas modalidades de visionar el conflicto y la violencia. Asimismo exploraremos el “giro rural” (M. Ospina) en este “nuevo cine” como parte de las políticas de promoción y distribución de paisajes exóticos colombianos para el consumo global. Los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de explorar casos de estudio específicos (por ejemplo, literatura, cine o artes visuales, o recursos mediáticos) para investigar más a fondo la relación entre violence y la producción cultural contemporánea latinoamericana. El curso se impartirá principalmente en español con lecturas y debates en clase tanto en español como en inglés.

This seminar explores violence as a cultural commodity through a series of theoretical texts on violence (Benjamin, Arendt, Lawrence and Karim), the culture industry (Adorno), and field of cultural production (Bourdieu). Taking the case of Colombia as emblematic of Latin America’s social reality as a whole, we will study violent scenarios that are easily commodified in best-selling fiction (by Vásquez, Restrepo, Vallejo), films (Birds of Passage, Monos), and art (by Botero, Salcedo), and successfully marketed in North America and Europe. In particular, we will pay close attention to literary and cultural market trends that reinforce readers’ knowledge of Latin America’s “darker side”—e.g., human rights violations, kidnappings, narcotics warfare, collective traumatic experiences, or economic hardships—by focusing on specific local conflicts chosen for the interest they are likely to attract in the global market. We will also study the boom of Colombian cinema that has emerged in recent decades in the context of the negotiations and the signing of the Peace Agreements (2012-2018). Likewise, we will pay close attention to the articulation of violence, conflict and national reconciliation by exploring new forms of visual representation proposed by filmmakers such as William Vega, Ciro Guerra, Cristina Gallego, Jorge Forero, Alejandro Landes or Rubén Mendoza. To explore these visual practices proposed by these filmmakers, we will read texts on “hapticity”, “visual tactility” and “materiality” (L. Marks, G. Bruno) to investigate new ways of viewing conflict and violence. We will also explore the “rural turn” (M. Ospina) in this “new cinema” as part of production and distribution policies that promote exotic Colombian landscapes for global consumption. Students will have the opportunity to explore specific research case studies (e.g., literature, film, visual arts, or media) to further investigate violence and Latin American contemporary cultural production. Course will be taught primarily in Spanish with readings and in-class discussions both in Spanish and English.

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SPANISH 832/AMCULT 601.005/LATINOAM 601.001/COMPLIT 760.001 Performance and Politics in the Americas

Prof. Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes

Tues 1-4 pm

#33440 / #35857

#35858 / #35859

What are the intersections of performance and politics in the Americas? In this class we will address performance (understood in relation to the performing arts but also as a lens for social analysis) from a hemispheric perspective, focusing on the intersection of performance and politics, as they are inflected by race and ethnicity, national contexts, language, migration, gender, sexuality, class, ability/disability, social movements, new technologies, and violence. The class will serve as an introduction to performance studies with a focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinx experience in the United States and Canada. We will read texts by key performance studies scholars and artists such as Diana Taylor, David Román, Ramón Rivera-Servera, Marcela A. Fuentes, Laura G. Gutiérrez, Leticia Alvarado, Vivian Martínez Tabares, José Esteban Muñoz, Carmelita Tropicana, Coco Fusco, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, and Antonio Prieto Stambaugh, and integrate videos and films focusing on figures such as Diamela Eltit, Astrid Hadad, Jesusa Rodríguez, Regina José Galindo, Petrona de la Cruz Cruz, Teresa Hernández, Teresa Ralli, Ana Mendieta, Tania Bruguera, Las Yeguas del Apocalipsis (The Mares of the Apocalypse), Lukas Avendaño, Walter Mercado, Francis Alÿs, Arthur Aviles, Javier Cardona, Carlos Martiel, John Leguizamo, Wu Tsang, Awilda Rodríguez Lora, Macha Colón, Janpi Star, Pó Rodil, Cheril Linett, and Lido Pimienta. Class will be conducted in English. All readings will be available in English.

SPANISH 881/COMPLIT 770.001 Theoretical Approaches to Culture: (Un)translating Aesthetics

Prof. Kate Jenckes

Wed 1-4 pm

#26383 / #35479

This class will explore forms and theories of art and literature that interrogate the possibility of translation, understood in a variety of registers, including the linguistic sense of a conveyance of meaning from one language to another as well as other forms of conveyance and conversion, including the production and representation of value, truth, history, and experience. We will consider the figure of translation in linguistic, philosophical, political, psychoanalytic, and perceptual terms, with a special emphasis on how it relates to the structure of sovereignty, and how cultural and aesthetic forms sustain and/or disrupt that relation. Topics will include visibility, textuality, witnessing, state repression, globalization, migration, singularity, identity, universality, institutional discourse. The readings, which will be available in English, will include a combination of critical theory (primarily a certain legacy of deconstruction) and primary texts (fiction, poetry, and visual art, primarily from or relating to Latin America and the U.S.).

ITALIAN 422 Politics & Literature: Humans, Animals, Viruses: Awareness as Immunity

Prof. Roberto Mosciatti

Tues/Thurs 10-11:30am #33773

This course will provide a survey on some of the most influential 20th century philosophical texts that belong to the western tradition, and which engage with the "human-nonhuman" question. Specifically, we will discuss Italian authors such as Antonio Gramsci, Giorgio Agamben, Roberto Esposito, and Toni Negri in relation to both French philosophy (Sartre, Foucault) and German thought (Heidegger, Schmitt, Marcuse). Considering a variety of theoretical approaches including Existentialism, Marxism, Postmodernism, and Biopolitics, we will focus on themes like capitalism, globalization, scientific practices, technology, and identity, so as to get a better understanding of how human nature, knowledge, and power relations have evolved after almost three years of pandemic crisis. Taught in English/no knowledge of Italian required/ no texts required, all readings will be uploaded on Canvas.

ITALIAN 430 Twentieth Century Italy: Italian fumetto

Prof. Manuela Di Franco

Mon/Wed 1-2:30 pm #33774

Have you ever considered comics as a product that mirrors a country's history? While there is still some debating comics are a product for children, comics are popular media that reflect, reinforce and challenge a country's society and culture. We will explore twentieth century Italy through comics, looking at how it reflected Italian modernization. From single panels to graphic novels, from adapted versions of American comics to Italian comics translated worldwide, we will look into the evolution of Italian fumetti and discover an often overlooked aspect of Italian culture. From the beginning of the 20th century to the new millennium, we will see how Italian artists created graphic narratives and retrace moments of Italian history from a unique perspective. Taught in Italian.

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PORTUGUESE 461 Brazilian Culture

Prof. Victoria Languard

Mon/Wed 1-2:30 pm #30654

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to Brazilian cultures, history, and society for students of Portuguese. Each week will be devoted to a different thematic topic that will allow us to consider key features of Brazil's past and present. By using a wide variety of materials in their original Portuguese, from podcasts and videos to scholarly and literary writing, the course will expose students to a broad expanse of Brazilian voices and perspectives and allow them to examine how Brazil became the diverse, dynamic and fascinating place it is today.

This course will be conducted in Portuguese, with particular emphasis on developing students' listening, speaking, and reading skills.