

CLS News

Winter 2011
V3, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Program in Comparative Literary Studies

Program in Comparative Literary Studies

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Newsletter Produced
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Paris Undergraduate Program in Critical Theory, Literature, and Media

Beginning in Fall quarter 2011, Northwestern will offer a unique Study Abroad program that builds on the strength in Critical theory among faculty in CLS, Philosophy, and Political Science. The program, which would take place in Paris in Fall quarter, would be of particular interest to students who minor in Critical Theory and CLS majors whose area of concentration is Critical Theory. The program will be offered in partnership with Sciences Po, with which Northwestern already collaborates on two study abroad programs. The program consists of six one-credit NU courses, including two one-credit courses in the French language, two Political Science courses (on French politics and on the development of critical theory) and two CLS courses, COMP LIT 383, Special Topics in Theory: Critical Theory and COMP LIT 390, Topics in Comparative Literature: Research Seminar, where students develop personal projects that correspond to their level of familiarity with the critical theory tradition and their level of French. CLS majors can count both courses towards the major. For more information about the program contact Professor Michael Loriaux at m-loriaux@northwestern.edu.



CLS Senior Colloquium

On November 18, CLS seniors presented their senior essays in a colloquium attended by CLS students and faculty. Four of our seniors are currently developing their senior essay into an Honors Thesis: Anna Alber, Jesse Anderson-Lehman, Megan Crognale, and Irina Dykhne.

From left: Luke Vanderlinden, Leah Bettag, Anna Alber, Megan Crognale, and Stephanie Hu.

Poetry and Poetics at Northwestern

The Poetry and Poetics Colloquium and Workshop (PPCW) is an interdisciplinary group open to faculty, graduate students, advanced undergraduates and members of the community. Founded in 2009, PPCW hosts quarterly readings by poets, lectures by visiting scholars, and workshops and reading groups for the entire community. In Spring 2011 PPCW will co-host poet Elizabeth Marie Young, whose debut collection, *Aim Straight at the Fountain and Press Vaporize*, won Fence's 2009 Motherwell prize.

PPCW has also instituted a new Doctoral Track in Poetry and Poetics. This PhD track is available to graduate students for the first time this year (2010-11). Students in CLS with a subfield in English will now be able to specialize in Poetry and Poetics. Next year, PPCW will launch the "Poetry in the Schools" program with a pilot program at Evanston Township High School. In this program, advanced undergraduates with appropriate training will oversee intensive creative writing workshops at ETHS during National Poetry Month. For more information on PPCW and its many activities, contact Professors Susannah Gottlieb or Reginald Gibbons.

CLS Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium

Winter quarter featured Professor Nasrin Qader (CLS/French) who presented a paper entitled "Reading the Silences of Abdulqadir 'Bedil', the Poet of Delhi" and Ozge Kocak (CLS/Philosophy) who presented a paper entitled "Poetic Attitude and Poetry Making: A Reflection."



Use your languages, read and translate poetry!



Back row from left: Stanley Gutiontov, Reginald Gibbons, Stephanie Lu, Agatha Kielczewski, Maxwell Kuehn, Liz Osisek, Lauren Davis. Front row from left: Lisa Wang, Madeline Hinkamp, Hilary Rasch, Irina Dykhne

CLS's upper division courses often include texts from different literary traditions; while the texts are always available in English translation, we encourage students who have the appropriate linguistic skills to read texts in the original language whenever possible. CLS 311, Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation, taught by Professor Reginald Gibbons every year, is unique in the sense that it is structured around students' linguistic expertise. And you might be surprised by the variety of languages students bring to this course: in recent years they have included, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Igbo, Korean, Latin, Polish, Spanish, and Russian!

CLS 311 is a "gateway" course for the undergraduate concentration in translation studies, and welcomes students from outside CLS as well. All must have language competence that allows them to read poetry closely in two languages. The choice of poems depends on the collective language

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Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation (cont.)

competence of the group, which of course changes from year to year. Each year, Professor Gibbons includes poems that illustrate difficulties of translating from either Greek or Latin on the one hand, or a non-western language on the other. Students work for two weeks collaboratively on each of the specimen texts--beginning each time with an invited faculty member who serves as linguistic and literary authority. Thorough analysis of each poem and its background, and an introduction to the relevant poetic devices, structures, and figures, lead to a discussion of everyone's individual project. At the same time, the course introduces students to the theory

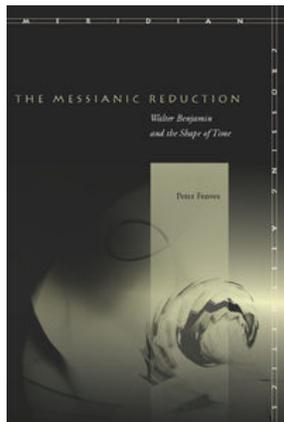
Faculty Publications

LYRIC POETRY
AND MODERN
POLITICS
RUSSIA,
POLAND AND
THE WEST
CLARE
CAVANAGH

Clare Cavanagh's book *Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics: Russia, Poland, and the West* (Yale UP) is a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism. The winner will be announced March 10.



Peter Fenves' book *The Messianic Reduction: Walter Benjamin and the Shape of Time* (Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics) has just been published by Stanford University Press.



Attention Juniors!

You should choose your concentration by the end of Spring Quarter; you may want to discuss your concentration with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

As you plan your courses for next year, remember that all CLS majors have to take COMP LIT 398 Senior Seminar. The Senior Seminar is offered only once a year, in Fall Quarter. All CLS majors write a Senior Essay. Students who pursue Honors develop their Senior Essay into an Honors thesis by taking one unit of 399 in Winter quarter of their senior year. The 399 does not count towards the 14 courses required for the major.

Graduate Recruitment

Four applicants for the graduate program in Comparative Literary Studies won Cluster Fellowships, from the Classical Traditions cluster, Critical Theory cluster, African Studies cluster and the Rhetoric and Public Culture cluster. Cluster fellowships are funded by the Mellon foundation and are designed to promote interdisciplinary studies. CLS will bring five prospective graduate students to campus on Friday March 4th: Pamela Krayenbuhl (BA in Rhetoric and in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of California Berkeley); Ruth Martin (BA in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts, University of Chicago); Olufolahan Olowoyeye (BA in Comparative Literature and Slavic Literature, Stanford University); Ross Shields (BA in Critical Theory, Macalester College; currently at Humboldt University, Berlin); Benjamin Trivers (BA in Comparative Literature, Brown University, MA in German Literature, Princeton University). CLS will hold a colloquium on Friday, March 4 between 12 noon and 2:00 pm featuring two former graduate students of the program: Abigail De Kosnik (currently Assistant Professor of Media Studies at the University of California Berkeley) and Bishopal Limbu, who currently teaches in the English department at Oregon State University.

CLS Spring 2011 Courses

Undergraduate Courses

CLS 201: Reading World Literature

The World as a Sea of Stories

William West, Nasrin Qader TTh 9:30-10:20 & F disc.
University 121

An introduction to the study of world literature through an examination of the relation between wandering and literature in different traditions.

CLS 206: Literature and Media

Domietta Torlasco TTh 11:00-12:20 & F disc.
University 102

An exploration of the question of "medium" from the viewpoint of the relation between words and images, reading and seeing, language and perception.

CLS 301: Practices of Reading

Resisting Interpretation

Susannah Gottlieb TTh 2:00-3:20
Crowe 1-135

A study of some of the literary texts of modernity with an emphasis on the ways they both resist and demand interpretation.

CLS 304: Studies in Theme

Modernist Japanese Fiction and Desire

Phyllis Lyons TTh 11:00-12:20
Crowe 1-125

An in-depth examination of the work of a major 20th century writer, Tanizaki Jun'ichirô.

CLS 375: Literature and its Others

Literature to Opera to Film

Linda Austern MW 11:00-12:20
MAB 109

A study of five operatic works, from the 18th to early 20th century, that are based on literary or spoken theatrical works and which in turn inspired cinematic or televised works.

Graduate Courses

CLS 413: The Rise and Fall of Modern Yiddish Culture

Marcus Moseley T 3:30-6:00
Crowe 1-125

An introduction to Yiddish literature and culture designed for students in fields outside Jewish studies for whom Jewish history and culture is of significant concern.

CLS 481: Studies in Literary Theory

Aesthetics, Letter and Spirit

William West Th 2:00-5:00
Crowe 1-125

An examination of aesthetics from the point of view of new interest in formalisms and a concern for embodiment.

Literature in Translation Courses

CLS 271-4 / AMES 271-4: Japanese Literature in Translation: Modern Japanese Writers

Phyllis Lyons TTh 2:00-3:20
Parkes 215

CLS 274-3/ AMES 274-3: Introduction to Chinese

Literature in Translation: Modern Chinese Literature

Bruce Knickerbocker TTh 3:30-4:50
Kresge 4-435

CLS 278-2 / JWSH_ST 278-2: Modern Hebrew

Literature in Translation: The Israeli Period

Marcus Moseley TTh 12:30-2:00
Crowe 1-125