SPRING 2016
Course offerings listed below are subject to change.
All courses may not be listed here.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Please consult the online class schedule for specific days and times of these courses.
https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/schedule/search

CLT 270B  WORLD LITERATURE
World Literature 1500-Present
T. CUMMINGS

Goethe once said that "the age of world literature is upon us, and everyone must work to hasten its arrival." Two centuries later, world literature remains a distant goal. In response, Kwame Appiah recommends we enter into cross-cultural discussions about our specific practices and beliefs that grant us significance. This, he explains, will help us develop attitudes of co-existence. As we will see, literature is a field in which these conversations can occur.

We will study a variety of texts that depict characters who must choose how to face an enemy, create a family, foster love, or make a home despite the changing conditions of their world. These existential circumstances will give us the opportunity to explore our own potential responses to such events and to enter into dialogues with both classmates and our understanding of works of art. Appiah explains that the need to do this is urgent because despite the devastating history of the past several hundred years, we can still recognize and act on our obligations to others who are members of our family, citizens of our country, and fellow humans, all of whom are sometimes like us and sometimes very different.

The texts we read will span the rise of the nation state, the catastrophe of the world wars, and the development of the postmodern family. Each will present us with old fashioned soldiers, contemporary superheroes, and recognizable college students and thereby give us the opportunity to converse with each other and, as it were, a variety of cultures by reading these plays and stories, poems and novels.

Course Requirements: A handful of short papers, four tests, group discussion, presentations, and in-class participation.

CLT 270B  WORLD LITERATURE
C. GUTHRIE

This course will introduce students to world literature through the genres of detective fiction, mysteries, and thrillers. We will concentrate on 19th- and 20th-century short stories and novels. Topics within these genres will include race and ethnicity, post-colonialism, gender, and ecology. Our reading list will be comprised of E.T.A. Hoffman’s Tales, Raymond Chandler’s The Long Goodbye, Roberto Bolano’s Distant Star, Peter Hoeg’s Smilla’s Sense of Snow, and Haruki Murakami’s The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle.

CLT 440  AFRICAN LITERATURE
L. EDSON

An investigation of African literature from various countries representing the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-independence periods. Texts to be read include Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart (Nigerian), Flora Nwapa’s Efuru (Nigerian), Ferdinand Oyono’s Houseboy (Cameroon), Ousmane Sembene’s God’s Bits of Wood (Senegalese), Buchi Emecheta’s The Joys of Motherhood (Nigerian), and Tsitsi Dangarembga’s Nervous Conditions (Zimbabwean).

Course Requirements: In class writing assignments, oral reports, mid-term and final exams.
CLT 513 19th CENTURY EUROPEAN LITERATURE  L. EDSON

An investigation of 19th century European literature that includes close analysis of novels by Balzac, Flaubert, and Dostoyevsky, the poetry of Baudelaire, and the drama of Ibsen and Strindberg. Issues to be discussed include realist representation, realist literature as a portrait of society, the politics of the family, the representation of consciousness, façades and illusions, conscious and unconscious role-playing, the nature of desire, Symbolist poetry, and the semiotics of the theatre.

Course Requirements:  In-class writing assignments, oral reports, mid-term and final exams.

CLT 561 MODERN FICTION  L. EDSON

An investigation of the modern novel with special attention to narrative voice, strategies of representation, the role of language, perception, and issues of truth and authority. Texts to be read include Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, Buchi Emecheta's The Bride Price, Albert Camus's The Plague, Michel Tournier's Friday, Toni Morrison's Sula, Marguerite Duras's The Lover, and Albert Camus's The Fall.

Course Requirements: In-class writing assignments, oral reports, mid-term and final exams.

CLT 580 LITERATURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST  A. GAVRON

Description Not Available

CLT 595 ZOMBIES  E. HICKS

In this course (developed with support from Joanna Brooks), we will discuss zombies, self-organization, swarms and agency. We will watch films (including Fido and Pontypool) and we will seek to gain a deeper understanding of race/ethnicity, social class, gender, the horror genre and the Haitian revolution. These topics will be covered: the films of George Romero, zombie invasion literature, infection, becoming-zombie, the zombie protagonist, cyberpunk, zombies and queer cultures, zombies and neuroscience and the uncanny. We will read and/or discuss these novels, anthologies and videogames: Boluk and Lenz' Generation Zombie, Bishop's American Zombie Gothic, I am Legend and Zombie Blondes (YA), The Last of Us (action-adventure survival horror videogame).

Students will be encouraged to expand upon their own interests in such topics as White Zombie (the band); The Stepford wives; zombies and Frankenstein, zombies in the Southwest; zombies in the art world; zombies, plastic surgery and horror; zombies and bikers; Zombies in Ireland; zombies and higher education; zombies and (disrupting) the digital humanities; zombies and philosophy. Papers acceptable in English or Spanish. Two research papers (midterm and final) and one presentation.

This class has included guest speakers (Brad Voytek, a UCSD neuroscientist; Jonathan Maberry, author) and field trips (5 hour pizza and Redbull reception for this class at Sony Online Entertainment in relation to H1Z1, a videogame). The SDSU Zombies class is mentioned in Bishop's new book How Zombies Conquered Popular Culture.