

FALL 2021

Course offerings listed below are subject to change.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Please consult the online class schedule for specific days and times of these courses.

<https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/schedule/search>

C LT 270A.01

WORLD LITERATURE

C. Guthrie

With a focus on classical and medieval literature in conversation with contemporary literature, visual art and film, this world literature survey course will pair Homer's *Iliad* with Madeline Miller's *The Song of Achilles* and Dante's *The Divine Comedy* with Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*. We will also look at Dante's poem in connection with Salvador Dali's surrealist illustrations. Assignments will include literary analysis of the works discussed and creative writing.

Course requirements include three essays, class participation, and a presentation. This course fulfills a GE requirement and is a required course for comparative literature majors. Format for the course will be lecture/discussion.

C LT 470.01

FOLKLORE LITERATURE

K. Shumate

What is Folklore?

Folklore is not just fairy tales; in fact, Folklore is part of our everyday lives. If you cook using a recipe handed down in your family, there is probably a story that goes with it—that is folklore. If your family hangs stockings on the fireplace or opens Christmas presents on Christmas Eve, that is a folklore tradition. How did it get started in your family? Other areas of folklore include:

- **Material culture:** folk art, vernacular architecture, textiles, modified mass-produced objects
- **Music:** traditional, folk, and world music
- **Narrative:** legends, urban legends, fairy tales, folk tales, personal experience narratives
- **Verbal art:** jokes, proverbs, word games
- **Belief and religion:** folk religion, ritual, and mythology
- **Foodways:** traditional cooking and customs, relationships between food and culture

We will explore several of these folklore categories throughout the semester, beginning with, of course, the narrative type. Students will read about, view movies & TV programs, and research folklore topics such as the outlaw hero, supernaturals, music, food, urban legends, conspiracy theories, and even folklore in technology.

Course requirements: include readings, research, group projects, regular participation in discussions, quizzes, and a final presentation of food and folklore traditions in your family.

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C LT 570.01

ECOCRITICISM

D. Leong

Literary Animals

Animals have long served as a source of inspiration for writers, artists, filmmakers, and philosophers alike. Whether as metaphors for the human condition, treasured companions, scientific objects, or participants in an ecological system, animals help us to make sense of the world and our places in it. This course will draw on one of the newest fields of ecocriticism – Critical Animal Studies – to explore how literary and cinematic representations of animals have shifted over time and in response to changing environmental, political, social, and economic conditions. We will ask: How are species boundaries informed by historical constructions of gender, race, class, and sex? What are our ethical responsibilities to animals? How do literature and film affirm and/or challenge our attitudes towards animals? And what is at stake in the relationships between literary and cinematic animals and their “real-world” counterparts? Authors/Filmmakers may include: T.C. Boyle, J.M. Coetzee, Ruth Ozeki, Anna Sewell, Gabriela Cowperthwaite, Werner Herzog, and Bong Joon-Ho.

C LT 580

BLACKNESS in LITERATURE & CULTURE

J. Jenkins

What does it mean to be “black”? That is, how is a person’s or an object’s blackness confirmed? Who has the authority to make such a confirmation, and why do they have that authority? In other words, who is hurt by or benefits from blackness being defined in certain ways? These questions represent some of the issues that we will explore in this course. With a focus on African American culture, we will discuss the major debates over the meaning of blackness in the US and why those debates have mattered for black and nonblack people. We will draw upon current scholarship in African American Studies—which includes, for example, the fields of Literature, Anthropology, Education, Film, History, Music, and Philosophy—to examine conceptions of blackness in academia and in popular culture.