Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages


The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages consists of five academic departments (Comparative Literature, French and Italian, German Studies, Iberian and Latin American Cultures, and Slavic Languages and Literatures), five focal groups (Humanities Education, Performance, Philosophy and Literature, Poetics, and Renaissances) as well as the Language Center, which oversees language instruction at Stanford. All the departments of the division offer academic programs leading to B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. The division brings together scholars and teachers dedicated to the study of literatures, cultures, and languages from humanistic and interdisciplinary perspectives. The departments in the division are distinguished by the quality and versatility of their faculty, a wide variety of approaches to cultural traditions and expressions, and the intense focus on the mastery of languages. This wealth of academic resources, together with small classes and the emphasis on individual advising, creates a superior opportunity for students who wish to be introduced to or develop a deeper understanding of non-English speaking cultures.

The division’s departments and the Language Center offer instruction at all levels, including introductory and general courses that do not require knowledge of a language other than English. These courses satisfy a variety of undergraduate requirements and can serve as a basis for developing a minor or a major program in the member departments. The more advanced and specialized courses requiring skills in a particular language are listed under the relevant departments, as are descriptions of the minor and major programs.

The DLCL itself offers one undergraduate minor program, an undergraduate multimedia laboratory course, and several graduate courses focused on the teaching of second languages, the teaching of literature, and academic professionalization.

Focal Groups

While the five departments in the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages serve common interests in literary and cultural traditions and their languages, the DLCL’s Focal Groups bring together faculty members and graduate students who share topics and approaches that range across languages and national literatures. These groups are designed to respond directly to the research interests of the faculty as a community, and reflect long-term commitments by the participants. They are conceived as portals that open from the Division outward to the wider community of literary and humanities scholars at Stanford. The membership may include any member of the Stanford faculty or any Ph.D. student with an interest in the topic. Most Focal Groups include participants from several humanities departments outside the DLCL.

Thus the DLCL is characterized by two axes of intellectual inquiry:

- the departmental axis, which is organized by language, nation, and culture
- the focal axis, which may be organized by genre, period, methodology, or other criteria.

The convergence of the two axes, departments and Focal Groups, locates faculty members and graduate students in at least two intersecting communities. The DLCL believes that this convergence gives institutional form to the intellectual conditions under which many scholars of literature and culture presently work.

Each Focal Group maintains a standing research workshop at which both faculty and graduate student members discuss their work. Some Focal Groups offer formal courses; and all groups are responsible for overseeing research-oriented activities and extracurricular events in the relevant area, including sponsoring conferences, publications, podcasts, and other activities that disseminate the outcomes of their research.

Humanities Education

Chair: Russell A. Berman (Comparative Literature, German Studies)

Faculty Members: Elizabeth Bernhardt (German Studies, Language Center), Eamonn Callan (School of Education), Adrian Daub (German Studies), Marisa Galvez (French and Italian), Orrin Robinson (German Studies), Gabriella Safran (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Mitchell Stevens (School of Education), Jennifer Summit (English), Guadalupe Valdés (School of Education)

Web Site: http://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/humanities-education

The Focal Group on Humanities Education explores issues concerning teaching and learning in the humanities, including research on student learning, innovation in pedagogy, the role of new technologies in humanities instruction, and professional issues for humanities teachers at all educational levels.

Performance

Chairs: Monika Greenleaf (Comparative Literature, Slavic Languages and Literatures), Peggy Phelan (Drama, English)

Faculty Members: Julie Draskoczy (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Jean Ha (History), Branimir Jakovljevic (Drama), Indra Levy (East Asian Languages and Cultures), Martíria Librandi Rocha (Iberian and Latin American Cultures), Gabriella Safran (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Lisa Surwillo (Iberian and Latin American Cultures)

Web Site: http://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/performance

The Performance group brings together departments of the DLCL with other disciplines, such as Drama, to achieve a cross-pollination and to reinvigorate performance theory through consciously re-mediated research interests, methodologies, and forms of scholarly expression. Each year of a three-year program focuses on a distinct goal:

1. Discussion of seminal texts and topics with key guests, extended through a blog on Arcade <http://arcade.stanford.edu>.
2. A writing colloquium culminating in a conference and guest performances by invited artists at the Bing Concert Hall opening (2012).
3. Joint publication.

Philosophy and Literature

Chairs: R. Lanier Anderson (Philosophy), Joshua Landy (French and Italian)

Faculty Members: Keith Baker (History), Russell Berman (Comparative Literature, German Studies), Alexis Burgess (Philosophy), Martón
Dornbach (German Studies), Jean-Pierre Dupuy (French and Italian), Amir Eshel (Comparative Literature, German Studies), Gregory Freidin (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Robert Harrison (French and Italian), David Hills (Philosophy), Héctor Hoyos (Iberian and Latin American Cultures), Michelle Kanes (English), Maritlia Librandi Rocha (Iberian and Latin American Cultures), Joan Ramon Resina (Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Comparative Literature), Nariman Shakov (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Blakay Vermeule (English), Laura Wittman (French and Italian), Lee Yearley (Religious Studies)

Web Site: http://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/philosophy-literature

The Focal Group on Philosophy and Literature brings together faculty and students from nine departments to investigate questions in aesthetics and literary theory, philosophically-inflected literary texts, and the form of philosophical writings. Fields of interest include both continental and analytic philosophy, as well as cognitive science, political philosophy, rational choice theory, and related fields. The group offers undergraduate tracks within eight majors, a graduate workshop, and a lecture series.

Workshop in Poetics

Chairs: Roland Greene (Comparative Literature, English), Nicholas Jenkins (English)

Faculty Members: Marisa Galvez (French and Italian), Michael Predmore (Iberian and Latin American Cultures)

Web Site: http://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/workshop-poetics

The Workshop in Poetics Focal Group is concerned with the theoretical and practical dimensions of the reading and criticism of poetry. During the four years of its existence, the Workshop has become a central venue at Stanford enabling participants to share their individual projects in a general conversation outside of disciplinary and national confines. The two dimensions that the workshop sees as urgent are:

• poetics in its specificity as an arena for theory and interpretive practice.
• historical poetics as a particular set of challenges for the reader and scholar.

The core mission is to offer Stanford graduate students a space to develop and critique their current projects.

Renaissances

Chair: Roland Greene (Comparative Literature, English)

Faculty Members: Cécile Alduy (French and Italian), Shahzad Bashir (Religious Studies), Paula Findlen (History), Tamar Herzog (History), Bissera Pentcheva (Art and Art History), Morten Steen Hansen (Art and Art History), Jennifer Summit (English)

Web Site: http://dlcl.stanford.edu/groups/renaissances

The Renaissances Focal Group discusses the present and future of early modern studies, drawing different fields of literature into conversation. In addition to sponsoring lectures and seminars focused primarily on methods and modes of research in the field, the group organizes the Renaissance/Early Modern seminar and is developing a web-based project on the Renaissance.

Ph.D. Minor in Humanities

The Ph.D. minor in Humanities is a sequence of interdisciplinary seminars covering the following five periods: Antiquity, Medieval, Early-Modern, Enlightenment, and Modern. A framing seminar that leads students to reflect on what it means to teach and study the humanities in the 21st century will also be required. The Program is designed to provide students with broad historical knowledge and skills for conducting interdisciplinary research; to prepare students to teach beyond their area of expertise; and to create communities of students and faculty from different departments working on similar periods.

This degree is declared using the Graduate Program Authorization Petition, students must submit a PhD minor form (http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/registrar/files/app_phd_minor.pdf) by the end of winter quarter, during their first year of studies. At this point, they must have taken at least one GPIH core seminar, and must enroll in a second one during the spring quarter of that year. If their application is successful, students will be admitted into the program during spring quarter. By spring quarter of their second year, students must have taken at least two more GPIH seminars, including the framing course (the other may be either a core seminar, or the extra-departmental course in their field). If students have not completed these requirements by this time, their participation in the program may be terminated. Students must finish coursework for the GPIH minor in their third year. Students who wish to enroll in the program after winter quarter of their first year must demonstrate that their participation will not delay their time to TGR.

To pursue the PhD Minor in Interdisciplinary Humanities, students must fulfill the following requirements, for a minimum of 20 units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Complete three of the five core seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Take one additional graduate course (numbered 200 or above) on one of these periods (usually corresponding to the student’s area of specialization) in a department other than the student’s home department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Demonstrate the ability to use at least one foreign language for scholarly work (for instance, by engaging with a primary or secondary source in a seminar paper for any class). Students may petition to have this requirement waived, if it is deemed to be irrelevant to the student’s course of study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minor in Modern Languages

The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages offers an undergraduate minor that draws upon courses in literature and language within the division’s departments and elsewhere in the University. The minor in Modern Languages is offered to students who want to supplement the course work in their major with course work in modern languages and literatures. The minor must be approved by the chairs of undergraduate studies of the respective language departments. Students in any field qualify for the minor by meeting the following requirements:

A minimum of 20 units (10 units per language) at the intermediate level (second year) or beyond, not including conversation, in two languages other than English offered by the DLCL.

At least one additional course, at the 100 level or above, in each modern language being studied in the minor. These courses must be taught by DLCL Academic Council members or other senior members of the faculty.

Students are recommended to study, work, or intern abroad for at least eight weeks at a location where one of the languages is spoken. Course work in this minor may not duplicate work counted toward other majors or minors. Advanced Placement credit and transfer credit do not apply to this minor. All courses must be taken for a letter grade. By University policy, no more
than 36 units may be awarded in this minor. Students declare the minor in Modern Languages through Axess.

**Minor in Middle Eastern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures**

The African and Middle Eastern (AME) program is part of the Stanford Language Center and is affiliated with The Center for African Studies, the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, and the program in Jewish Studies. The program offers beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in Arabic, Hebrew, Swahili, and other African languages as well as classes in AME literatures and cultures. Additional languages such as Hausa, Chichewa, Amharic, Tigrigna, Igbo, Zulu, Kinyarwanda, and Twi are offered upon request, providing funding is available. Students can also request an AME language course by applying online. For further information check our FAQ page or contact the coordinator Khalid Obeid (kyobeid@stanford.edu).

The undergraduate minor in Middle Eastern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (https://www.stanford.edu/dept/lc/language/courses/africanMidEastern/minor.html) has been designed to give students majoring in other departments an opportunity to gain a substantial introduction to the Arabic and Hebrew languages, as well as an introduction to the cultures and civilizations of the Middle East. Students declaring a minor must do so no later than the last day of the Spring quarter of their junior year, or four quarters before degree conferred. If a student is not able to meet this deadline, he or she may petition the Language Center director and request a revised declaration date, which may be granted at the director’s discretion. Requirements for the degree can be found in the Language Center (https://www.stanford.edu/dept/lc/language/courses/africanMidEastern/minor.html) section of this bulletin.

*Division Chair:* Gabriella Safran