

LITERATURE AND ARTS

Literature and Arts (FD-LA) is one of the six Foundational Disciplines that are part of the WCAS bachelor's degree.

By taking courses in literature and art, students come to understand and appreciate the achievements of the creative imagination in a range of artistic forms and media. These include printed and oral literature, theater, music, the visual arts, and film and digital media. Students learn to describe, value, and critique such works; to identify and query the ideas and perspectives they represent; and to consider them as an array of aesthetic practices through which human beings have attempted to explore and transform their worlds. As students encounter the power of literature and art to imagine the breadth of human experience, they come to grasp the role of the arts in the evolution of human ways of knowing, being, feeling and expressing. At the same time, students examine the historical, cultural, and social contexts in which creative works are produced, which they at once reflect and contest. In recognizing the many ways in which texts and artistic works create meaning, and by paying attention to the factors that influence such processes, students gain exposure to the descriptive vocabularies, theoretical approaches, and reading practices common to criticism on literature and the arts. What is more, they develop essential skills in critical thinking and cultural analysis that will make them more conscientious readers of texts, images, and objects of all kinds.

Learning Objectives for FD-LA

Courses in Literature and Arts are designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Observe the forms, genres, and styles of literary and artistic expression through practices of close reading and analysis
- Gain awareness of the social, political, cultural, and historical factors influencing artistic expression, the relations between the artist and the public, and the potential of creative art to challenge or to affirm social and cultural norms
- Appreciate how literature and the arts reveal the differences and diversity, as well as the continuity and unity, of human cultures
- Produce acts of persuasive interpretation, analysis, and commentary on literature and art, both spoken and written
- By emulating the subtleties of literature and art, students develop their writing skill and sharpen their powers of interpretation, critique, and aesthetic perception

FD-LA Courses

Courses approved for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Course	Title
ARABIC 316-2	Reading Classical Arabic Texts
ARABIC 316-3	Reading Modern Arabic Prose
ART 270-0	Contemporary Art Survey
ART 272-0	Critical Methods for Contemporary Art
ART 372-0	Seminar
ART_HIST 220-0	Introduction to African Art
ART_HIST 222-0	Black Art in the TransAtlantic World
ART_HIST 224-0	Introduction to Ancient Art
ART_HIST 225-0	Introduction to Medieval Art
ART_HIST 226-0	Art and Visual Culture of the Islamic World
ART_HIST 232-0	Introduction to the History of Architecture: 1400 to Present
ART_HIST 235-0	Introduction to Latin American Art
ART_HIST 240-0	Introduction to Asian Art
ART_HIST 250-0	Introduction to Early Modern European Art
ART_HIST 255-0	Introduction to Modernism
ART_HIST 260-0	Introduction to Contemporary Art
ART_HIST 301-0	Topics in Art, Revolution and Empire
ART_HIST 320-1	Medieval Art: Byzantine
ART_HIST 320-3	Medieval Art: Late Medieval
ART_HIST 328-0	Medievalism in Video Games: Art, Culture and Theory
ART_HIST 329-0	Special Topics in Medieval Art
ART_HIST 330-1	Early Modern European Art 1400–1500
ART_HIST 340-1	Baroque Art: Italy & Spain 1600–1800
ART_HIST 342-0	Eighteenth-Century European Art
ART_HIST 349-0	Special Topics in 17th & 18th-Century Art
ART_HIST 350-1	19th-Century Art 1: 1789–1848
ART_HIST 350-2	19th-Century Art 2: 1848–1914
ART_HIST 359-0	Special Topics in 19th-Century Art
ART_HIST 360-0	20th Century Art
ART_HIST 368-0	Special Topics in Modern Art
ART_HIST 370-1	Architecture & Landscapes, 1750–1890
ART_HIST 375-0	Media Theory
ART_HIST 378-0	The Global City
ART_HIST 386-0	Special Topics in the Arts of Africa
ASIAN_AM 247-0	Asian Americans and Popular Culture
ASIAN_AM 275-0	Introduction to Asian American Literature
ASIAN_AM 276-0	Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies
ASIAN_AM 333-0	Asian/American Gaming
ASIAN_AM 376-0	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 200-0	Introductory Topics in Chinese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 202-0	Introduction to Modern Chinese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 204-0	Modern Chinese Popular Culture I
ASIAN_LC 205-0	Modern Chinese Popular Culture II
ASIAN_LC 221-0	Introduction to Premodern Japanese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 222-0	Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 223-0	Introduction to Contemporary Japanese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 224-0	Introduction to Japanese Film, Media, and Visual Culture
ASIAN_LC 240-0	Introductory Topics in Korean Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 260-0	Introductory Topics in South Asian Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 261-0	South Asian Popular Cultures
ASIAN_LC 265-0	South Asian Cinemas
ASIAN_LC 290-0	Introductory Topics in Asian Languages and Cultures
ASIAN_LC 300-0	Advanced Topics in Chinese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 321-0	Advanced Topics in Premodern Japanese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 322-0	Advanced Topics in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 340-0	Advanced Topics in Korean Literature and Culture
ASIAN_LC 360-0	Advanced Topics in South Asian Languages and Cultures
ASIAN_LC 370-0	Literary Cultures in South Asia
ASIAN_LC 373-0	Religious and Textual Traditions in South Asia

ASIAN_LC 375-0	South Asian Societies	ENGLISH 274-0	Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Literatures
ASIAN_LC 390-0	Advanced Topics in Asian Languages and Cultures	ENGLISH 275-0	Introduction to Asian American Literature
ASIAN_LC 392-0	Advanced Studies in Asian Film, Media, and Visual Culture	ENGLISH 276-0	Topics in Asian American Literature
ASIAN_LC 393-0	Asian Environmental Humanities	ENGLISH 277-0	Introduction to Latinx Literature
ASIAN_LC 394-0	Space and Place in Asian Literatures and Cultures	ENGLISH 280-0	Topics in Multiethnic Literature
ASIAN_LC 395-0	Genre in Asian Literatures	ENGLISH 281-0	Topics in Postcolonial & Comparative Literatures
BLK_ST 210-0	Introduction to African American Literature	ENGLISH 283-0	Introduction to Literature and the Environment
BLK_ST 211-0	Literatures of the Black World	ENGLISH 284-0	Topics in Literature and the Environment
BLK_ST 236-0	Introduction to Black Studies	ENGLISH 285-0	Topics in Literature and Culture
BLK_ST 275-0	Africans and African Americans: Cultural Entanglements	ENGLISH 287-0	Topics in Global Literatures
BLK_ST 315-0	Religion in the Black Atlantic	ENGLISH 288-0	Topics in Literature and Ethics
BLK_ST 350-0	Theorizing Blackness	ENGLISH 300-0	Seminar in Reading and Interpretation
BLK_ST 360-0	Major Authors	ENGLISH 302-0	History of the English Language
CFS 398-0	Field Studies in Humanities	ENGLISH 310-0	Studies in Literary Genres
CLASSICS 210-0	The World of Homer	ENGLISH 311-0	Studies in Poetry
CLASSICS 211-0	Greek History and Culture: From Homer to Alexander the Great	ENGLISH 312-0	Studies in Drama
CLASSICS 245-0	Classics and the Cinema	ENGLISH 313-0	Studies in Fiction
CLASSICS 250-0	Literatures of the Ancient World	ENGLISH 322-0	Medieval Drama
CLASSICS 260-0	Classical Mythology	ENGLISH 323-1	Medieval Poetry
CLASSICS 310-0	Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean	ENGLISH 324-0	Studies in Medieval Literature
CLASSICS 311-SA	On-Site Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean	ENGLISH 331-0	Renaissance Poetry
CLASSICS 340-0	Greek and Roman Drama	ENGLISH 332-0	Renaissance Drama
CLASSICS 350-0	Greek and Latin Literature	ENGLISH 338-0	Studies in Renaissance Literature
CLASSICS 380-0	Classical Reception Studies	ENGLISH 339-0	Studies in Shakespeare
COMP_LIT 200-0	Introduction to Literary Theory	ENGLISH 340-0	Studies in 18th-Century Literature
COMP_LIT 201-0	Reading World Literature	ENGLISH 344-0	18th-Century Fiction
COMP_LIT 202-0	Interpreting Culture	ENGLISH 351-0	Romantic Poetry
COMP_LIT 205-0	Reading Difference	ENGLISH 353-0	Studies in Romantic Literature
COMP_LIT 211-0	Readings in Genre	ENGLISH 357-0	19th-Century British Fiction
COMP_LIT 270-0	Literatures in Translation	ENGLISH 359-0	Studies in 19th-Century Literature
COMP_LIT 301-0	Studies in World Literature	ENGLISH 361-0	20th and 21st Century Poetry
COMP_LIT 302-0	Reading Across Disciplines	ENGLISH 363-0	20th and 21st Century Fiction
COMP_LIT 303-0	Movements and Periods	ENGLISH 365-0	Studies in Postcolonial Literature
COMP_LIT 305-0	Studies in Film, Media, and Visual Culture	ENGLISH 366-0	Studies in African American Literature
COMP_LIT 306-0	Studies in Race & Ethnicity	ENGLISH 368-0	Studies in 20th- and 21st-Century Literature
COMP_LIT 307-0	Studies in Gender, Sexuality & Representation	ENGLISH 369-0	Studies in African Literature
COMP_LIT 312-0	Major Authors and Texts	ENGLISH 371-0	American Novel
ENGLISH 200-0	Literary Histories	ENGLISH 372-0	American Poetry
ENGLISH 210-1	British Literary Traditions	ENGLISH 374-0	Studies in Native American and Indigenous Literatures
ENGLISH 210-2	British Literary Traditions	ENGLISH 375-0	Studies in Asian American Literature
ENGLISH 211-0	Introduction to Poetry	ENGLISH 377-0	Topics in Latinx Literature
ENGLISH 212-0	Introduction to Drama	ENGLISH 378-0	Studies in American Literature
ENGLISH 213-0	Introduction to Fiction	ENGLISH 380-0	Studies in Multiethnic American Literature
ENGLISH 214-0	Introduction to Film and Its Literatures	ENGLISH 381-0	Literature & Medicine
ENGLISH 215-0	Topics in Literature, Film, and Media	ENGLISH 382-0	Literature and Law
ENGLISH 220-0	The Bible as Literature	ENGLISH 383-0	Special Topics in Theory
ENGLISH 234-0	Introduction to Shakespeare	ENGLISH 384-0	Studies in Literature and the Environment
ENGLISH 265-0	Introduction to Postcolonial Literature	ENGLISH 385-0	Studies in Literature and Culture
ENGLISH 266-0	Introduction to African American Literature	ENGLISH 386-0	Studies in Literature and Film
ENGLISH 267-0	Topics in African American Literature	ENGLISH 388-0	Studies in Literature and Ethics
ENGLISH 270-1	American Literary Traditions	ENGLISH 389-0	Studies in Gender, Sexuality and Embodiment
ENGLISH 270-2	American Literary Traditions	ENGLISH 397-0	Research Seminar for Literature Majors
ENGLISH 273-0	Introduction to 20th-Century American Literature	ENVR_POL 283-0	Introduction to Literature and the Environment
		ENVR_POL 284-0	Topics in Literature and the Environment
		FRENCH 210-0	Reading Literatures in French

FRENCH 211-0	Reading Cultures in French	GREEK 301-0	Readings in Greek Literature
FRENCH 271-0	Introducing the Novel	HDC 262-0	Life 101: Literature and Psychology
FRENCH 272-0	Introducing Theatre	HEBREW 216-0	Hebrew III: Topics in Hebrew Literature
FRENCH 273-0	Introducing Poetry	HEBREW 316-0	Hebrew IV: Advanced Topics in Hebrew Literature
FRENCH 277-0	French Existentialism	HIND_URD 320-0	Topics Hindi-Urdu Literature
FRENCH 280-0	Major Topics in French and Francophone Studies	HISTORY 274-0	Indo-Persian Lit as Global Lit: Love, Longing, & Dissent
FRENCH 334-0	Montaigne and Modernity	HISTORY 317-1	American Cultural History: 19th C.
FRENCH 335-0	17th Century Literature	HISTORY 350-0	Soviet History Through Film
FRENCH 340-0	Sexual Politics and the Ancien Regime	HUM 205-0	The World of Homer
FRENCH 355-0	Topics in Modern and Contemporary French Literature and Culture	HUM 210-0	Humanities in the World I
FRENCH 362-0	African Literatures and Cultures	HUM 325-6	Humanities in the Digital Age
FRENCH 365-0	The Maghreb and the Middle East	HUM 370-6	Special Topics in the Humanities
FRENCH 367-0	Transnational Francophone Studies	ITALIAN 204-0	Introduction to Italian Literature
FRENCH 371-0	Giants, Cannibals, and Critique	ITALIAN 251-0	Introduction to Italian Cinema
FRENCH 374-0	Proust	ITALIAN 275-0	Dante's Divine Comedy
FRENCH 375-0	French Film	ITALIAN 277-0	Global Neorealism
FRENCH 386-0	Gender & Writing	ITALIAN 349-0	Topics in Italian Culture and Literature
FRENCH 390-0	Topics in Literature and Culture	ITALIAN 371-0	Media Aesthetic Education
FRENCH 395-0	Advanced Studies in Culture and Thought	ITALIAN 377-0	Gender and Sexuality in Italian Culture
GEN_MUS 170-0	Introduction to Music	JWSH_ST 266-0	Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl
GEN_MUS 175-0	Selected Topics in Music Literature for Non-Majors	JWSH_ST 279-0	Modern Jewish Literature
GEN_MUS 220-0	History of the Symphony	JWSH_ST 280-6	Topics in Israel Studies
GEN_MUS 230-0	History of Opera	LATIN 310-0	Readings in Latin Literature
GEN_MUS 250-0	History of Rock	LATINO 230-0	Grrrls Our Mothers Warned Us About: Introduction to Latine Feminist Sexualities
GERMAN 211-0	German Culture through Film	LATINO 231-0	Politics of the Body
GERMAN 221-1	Introduction to German Literature: 1800-1900	LATINO 232-0	Queer and Trans Latino Studies
GERMAN 221-2	Introduction to German Literature: 1900-1945	LATINO 277-0	Introduction to Latinx Literature
GERMAN 221-3	Introduction to German Literature: 1945-today	LATINO 377-0	Topics in Latinx Literature
GERMAN 228-0	History of German Film	LATINO 393-0	Topics in Latina and Latino Text and Representation
GERMAN 230-0	Berlin and the Culture of Democracy	MENA 290-6	Introductory Topics in Middle East and North African Studies
GERMAN 232-0	The Theme of Faust Through the Ages	MENA 390-6	Advanced Topics in Middle East & North African Studies
GERMAN 234-1	Jews and Germans: An Intercultural History I	PERF_ST 101-0	Modes of Performance
GERMAN 234-2	Jews and Germans: An Intercultural History II	PERF_ST 200-0	Introduction to Performance Studies
GERMAN 236-0	Kafka and Nietzsche	PERF_ST 220-0	Sound Cultures
GERMAN 244-0	Analyzing Freud	PERF_ST 225-0	Black Music Studies
GERMAN 245-0	Special Topics in German Literature and Culture	PERF_ST 230-0	Food and Performance
GERMAN 246-0	Special Topics in German Literature and Culture	PERF_ST 301-0	Performance and Activism in Digital Culture
GERMAN 250-0	Cultural History of Beer and Brewing from Germany to Chicago	PERF_ST 308-0	Contemporary Middle Eastern Performance
GERMAN 266-0	Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl	PERF_ST 310-0	Performing Africa
GERMAN 321-0	German Literature 1800-1900: The Age of Revolution	PHIL 280-0	Introduction to the Philosophy of Art
GERMAN 322-0	German Contributions to World Literature	PORT 210-0	Icons, Legends, and Myths in Brazil
GERMAN 323-0	German Literature 1900-1945: Myth and Modernity	PORT 296-0	Introductory Topics in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies
GERMAN 325-0	German Literature: 1945-1989: Recoveries and Transitions	PORT 380-0	Contemporary Brazil: Literature and Film
GERMAN 327-0	The German Avant-Garde and the Culture of Modernism	RELIGION 301-0	Hindu Epics: Mahābhārata
GERMAN 328-0	Prague: City of Cultures, City of Conflict	RELIGION 315-0	Buddhist Auto/biography
GERMAN 331-0	Shattered Worlds: Representation after the Shoah	RELIGION 319-0	Topics in Buddhism
GERMAN 333-0	Literature of the Cold War	RELIGION 371-0	Religion, TV, and Film
GERMAN 334-0	Writers and their Critics	RELIGION 374-0	Contemporary Religious Thought
GERMAN 335-0	Minority Voices in Germany	RTVF 312-1	History of Film I
GERMAN 336-0	German Cultural Criticism (and Beyond)	SLAVIC 210-1	Introduction to Russian Literature
GERMAN 345-0	Topics in German Literature and Culture	SLAVIC 210-2	Introduction to Russian Literature
GERMAN 346-0	Topics in German Literature and Culture	SLAVIC 211-1	20th-Century Russian Literature
GNDR_ST 361-0	Gender, Sexuality, and Literature	SLAVIC 211-2	20th-Century Russian Literature
		SLAVIC 218-0	Introduction to Polish Literature

SLAVIC 255-0	Slavic Civilizations
SLAVIC 261-0	Heart of Europe: Poland in the Twentieth Century
SLAVIC 262-0	Life 101: Literature and Psychology
SLAVIC 310-0	Tolstoy
SLAVIC 311-0	Dostoevsky
SLAVIC 318-0	Polish Cinema
SLAVIC 328-0	Prague: City of Cultures, City of Conflict
SLAVIC 367-1	Russian Film
SLAVIC 369-0	Russian Drama
SLAVIC 392-0	East European Literature and Visual Arts
SPANISH 204-0	Advanced Spanish II: Activism in the Spanish-Speaking World
SPANISH 222-0	The Novel in Latin America: Society, State, Nature
SPANISH 223-0	Cervantes (Taught in English)
SPANISH 231-0	The "New" Latin American Narrative (Taught in English)
SPANISH 250-0	Literature in Spain before 1700
SPANISH 251-0	Literature in Spain since 1700
SPANISH 260-0	Literature in Colonial Latin America
SPANISH 261-0	Literature in Modern Latin America
SPANISH 277-0	Introduction to Latinx Literature
SPANISH 323-0	Cervantes' Don Quixote
SPANISH 335-0	Studies in Genre
SPANISH 340-0	Colonial Latin American Literature
SPANISH 341-0	Latin American Modernismo
SPANISH 343-0	Latin American Avant-Gardes
SPANISH 344-0	Borges
SPANISH 345-0	Reading the 'Boom'
SPANISH 346-0	Testimonial Narrative in Latin America
SPANISH 350-0	Visual Culture in Latina/o America and Spain
SPANISH 362-0	Citizenship and Urban Violence in Latin America
SPANISH 395-0	Topics in Latin American, Latina and Latino, and/or Iberian Cultures