

# MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

*Director:* Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi

*Committee in Charge:* Lanier Anderson, Jean-Pierre Dupuy, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Gregory Freidin (on leave), Hans U. Gumbrecht, Andrea A. Lunsford, Purnima Mankekar, Barbaro Martinez-Ruiz, Paula Moya, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, Helen Stacy (Law)

*Affiliated Faculty:* Lanier Anderson (Philosophy), Eamonn Callan (Education), Jean-Pierre Dupuy (French and Italian), Paulla Ebron (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Dan Edelstein (French and Italian), Harry Elam (Drama), Michele Elam (English), Amir Eshel (German Studies), Shelley Fisher Fishkin (English), James Ferguson (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Gregory Freidin (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Theodore Glasser (Communication), Roland Greene (English, Comparative Literature), Hans U. Gumbrecht (French and Italian), Akhil Gupta (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Sean Hanretta (History), Ursula Heise (English), Robert Kaufman (English), Matthew Kohrman (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Joshua Landy (French and Italian), Helen Longino (Philosophy), Andrea A. Lunsford (English), Liisa Malkki (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Purnima Mankekar (Cultural and Social Anthropology), Barbaro Martinez-Ruiz (Art and Art History), Franco Moretti (English, Comparative Literature), Paula Moya (English), Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi (French and Italian), David Palumbo-Liu (Comparative Literature), Arnold Rampersad (English), Ramón Saldívar (English, Comparative Literature), Priya Satia (History), Debra Satz (Philosophy), Londa Schiebinger (History), Helen Stacy (Law), Richard White (History), Bryan Wolf (Art and Art History), Alex Woloch (English, on leave), Sylvia Yanagisako (Cultural and Social Anthropology, on leave), Yvonne Yarbro-Bejarano (Spanish and Portuguese), Steven Zipperstein (History)

*Program Offices:* Building 250, Room 251F

*Mail Code:* 94305-2020

*Phone:* (650) 723-3413

*Email:* idstudies.moore@stanford.edu

*Web Site:* <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/MTL>

Courses given in Modern Thought and Literature have the subject code MTL. For a complete list of subject codes, see Appendix.

The Program in Modern Thought and Literature is administered through the office of Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities. The program admits students for the Ph.D. and a very limited number for a coterminal B.A./M.A. Program.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Although Modern Thought and Literature has no formal undergraduate degree granting program, undergraduates interested in completing a major in this field may do so through the undergraduate major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities. This program is designed for students with a commitment to interdisciplinary study in the humanities. Students may devise majors that incorporate modern literature (since the 18th century), cultural history, and critical theory. Students may also create majors in other interdisciplinary concentrations. For course guidelines, see the *Handbook for the Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*. Students wishing to declare the major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities must apply for admission to the Humanities honors program and for graduation with honors in Humanities.

## COTERMINAL BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S PROGRAM

Each year, one or two undergraduates, who are exceptionally well prepared in literature and at least one foreign language and whose undergraduate course work includes a strong interdisciplinary component, may petition to be admitted to the program for the purpose of completing

a coterminal M.A. degree. Admission to this program is granted only on condition that in the course of working on their master's degree they do not apply to enter the Ph.D. program in Modern Thought and Literature. The deadline for application is early February.

To apply, applicants submit:

1. An unofficial grade transcript from Axes.
2. A Petition for Admission to the Coterminal Program from the Registrar's Office.
3. A statement giving the reasons the student wishes to pursue this program and its place in his or her future plans. This statement should pay particular attention to the reasons why the student could not pursue the studies he or she desires in some other way.
4. A plan of study listing, quarter by quarter, each course by name, units, and instructor, to be taken in order to fulfill the requirements for the degree for a total of 45 units, including at least 20 units of advanced work in one literature, and at least 20 units in a coherent interdisciplinary program of courses taken in non-literature departments.
5. A writing sample of critical or analytical prose.
6. Two letters of recommendation from members of the faculty who know the applicant well and who can speak directly to the question of his or her ability to do graduate-level work.

For University coterminal degree program rules and University application forms, see <http://registrar.stanford.edu/shared/publications.htm#Coterm>.

## REQUIREMENTS

The candidate for the M.A. must complete at least 45 units of graduate work, to be divided in the following manner:

1. The introductory seminar, MTL 334A, 5 units, or another graduate-level seminar offered by a member of the committee in charge and approved by the student's graduate program adviser.
2. At least 20 units of advanced course work in literature, to be approved by the director.
3. At least 20 units of course work in a coherent and individually arranged interdisciplinary program, to be approved by the director.

By the end of the course of study, each candidate must also demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature is an interdisciplinary program combining work in modern literary/cultural studies with work in one or more other modern disciplines.

The Ph.D. program is designed specifically for students who have a strong interest in literature or culture, but whose approach or focus requires an interdisciplinary program; for example, students interested in anthropological or philosophical approaches to literature and culture; gender studies; ethnic studies; or in topics such as legal humanities, popular culture, and social or cultural theory.

Modern Thought and Literature is intended for students who plan to teach and write in literature departments or in interdisciplinary programs in the humanities, cultural studies, or humanistic social sciences, or for students intending to formulate cultural policy.

Course work in the program is divided about evenly between advanced courses in literature departments and advanced courses in non-literary departments.

## MASTER OF ARTS

The Master of Arts is available to students who are admitted to the doctoral program. Students are not admitted into the program for the purpose of earning a terminal Master of Arts degree. Candidates for the Ph.D. who satisfy the committee of their progress and satisfactorily complete 45 units of course work forming a coherent program of study, may apply for an M.A. in Modern Thought and Literature.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

University requirements for the Ph.D. are discussed in the "Graduate Degrees" section of this bulletin.

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree in Modern Thought and Literature must complete three years (nine quarters) of full-time work, or the equivalent, in graduate study beyond the B.A. degree. He or she is expected to complete at least 18 courses of graduate work in addition to the dissertation. Students may spend one year of graduate study abroad.

Requirements for the Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature are:

1. A two quarter introductory seminar, MTL 334A,B, The Modern Tradition I and II (5 units each, Autumn, Winter) followed by MTL 300, The Modern Thought and Literature Colloquium (1 unit, Spring).
2. A coherent program of eight courses of advanced work in literary studies to be worked out with the adviser, of which at least six must be regularly scheduled courses in literature. Courses in the teaching of composition (ENGLISH 396, 397), ad hoc graduate seminars (MTL 395), research courses (MTL 398), and thesis registration (MTL 802) may not be counted among these six courses; MTL 396L, 397, 399, 802 may not be counted toward these requirements under any circumstances.
3. Eight courses of advanced work in non-literature departments, the core of which is completion of either a departmental minor or an interdepartmental concentration, typically consisting of six courses. Departmental minors are available from the departments of Cultural and Social Anthropology, Art and Art History, Communication, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology (see the relevant information in those sections of this bulletin). Approved interdepartmental concentrations have been established in popular culture, ethnic studies, feminist and gender studies, and science and technology studies (specific course requirements are available from the program office). Individually designed concentrations may be approved by petition to the director. In addition to the required six courses in a minor or a concentration, two additional courses from non-literature departments are chosen in consultation with each student's academic adviser. Course restrictions noted above in item 2 also apply.
4. *Qualifying Paper*: this certifies that students are likely to be able to undertake the quality of research, sustained argumentation, and cogent writing demanded in a doctoral dissertation. The qualifying paper must be a substantial revision of a seminar paper written at Stanford during the first year and should embody a substantial amount of independent research, develop an intellectual argument with significant elements of original thinking, and demonstrate the ability to do interdisciplinary work. Each paper is evaluated by two or three readers (designated before the end of the first year of graduate study), one of whom must be a member of the Committee in Charge. Qualifying papers must be submitted to the program office no later than the end of the third week of the fifth quarter of enrollment, normally, winter of the second year.
5. Teaching, an essential part of the program, is normally undertaken in conjunction with the Department of English. Candidates are required to demonstrate competence in teaching.
6. Students must demonstrate, by the end of the third quarter of the first year, a reading knowledge of one foreign language and, by the beginning of the first quarter of the third year, a reading knowledge of one other foreign language. Reading knowledge means the ability to make a genuine scholarly use of the language: that is, to read prose of ordinary difficulty.

Students may not take the University oral examination before completion of the foreign language requirement.

7. *Candidacy*: at the end of the second year, students apply for candidacy. The following qualifications are required before candidacy can be certified: the earlier submission of a satisfactory qualifying paper, demonstration of a reading knowledge of one foreign language; satisfactory progress in course work; a list of courses applicable to the degree, distinguishing between courses appropriate to the literary component and courses appropriate to the interdisciplinary component; designation of a departmental minor or an interdisciplinary concentration; and the submission of a statement outlining the scope

and coherence of the interdisciplinary component of the program in relation to the literary component and noting the relevance of the course work to that program.

8. *Annual Review*: the program and progress of each student must be approved by the Committee in Charge at the end of each academic year.
9. *University Oral Examination*: this examination, covering the student's areas of concentration, normally is taken in the third year of graduate study. It is a two-hour oral examination administered by four faculty members specializing in the student's areas of concentration, and a chair from another department. The exam is based on a substantial reading list prepared by the student in conjunction with the faculty committee and designed to cover the areas of expertise pertinent to the student's dissertation project.
10. *Colloquium on the Dissertation Proposal*: sometime after the University oral examination, or in conjunction with that examination, the dissertation committee assembles for up to one hour to discuss the dissertation proposal with the student. Prior to this meeting, the student should have consulted each member of the committee to discuss the proposal and compile a bibliography.
11. *Dissertation*: the fourth and fifth years are devoted to the dissertation, which should be a substantial and original contribution acceptable to the Committee on Modern Thought and Literature. The subject is drawn from the literature of specialization and the area of nonliterary studies.

## HUMANITIES

The program participates in the Graduate Program in Humanities leading to a joint Ph.D. degree in Modern Thought and Literature and Humanities. For a description of the Humanities program, see the "Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities" section of this bulletin.

## COURSES

Students interested in literature and literary studies should also consult course listings in the departments of Asian Languages, Classics, Comparative Literature, English, French and Italian, German Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Spanish and Portuguese, and in the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. For other offerings, students should consult listings in the individual departments of interest. Consent of instructor is often required.

Students in the doctoral program in Modern Thought and Literature are advised to read through the offerings in English as well as offerings of the non-literature departments in which they wish to concentrate: for example, courses dealing with culture listed under Cultural and Social Anthropology, courses dealing with film under Communication or Art and Art History, courses in intellectual and cultural history under History. If the area of nonliterary interest is thematic rather than disciplinary, doctoral students should look under program listings such as Feminist Studies, African and African American Studies, or Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity.

**MTL 300. Modern Thought and Literature Colloquium**—Required of first-year graduate students in the program; open to all students in the program and to others by consent of instructor. Weekly meeting of students in the program to discuss interdisciplinary scholarship, writing, and issues pertaining to the requirements for the Ph.D. Presentations by affiliated faculty and by student panels.

*1-3 units, Spr (Boyi, E)*

**MTL 334A. The Modern Tradition I**—(Same as ENGLISH 334A.) Preference to first-year graduate students in Modern Thought and Literature and English. Kant's 18th-century development of the critique of reason; how it set the stage for the themes and problems that have preoccupied Western thinkers. Focus is on texts that extend and problematize the critique of reason. Writers include Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Freud, Lukács, and Heidegger.

*5 units, Aut (Moya, P)*

**MTL 334B. The Modern Tradition II: Gramsci, Lacan, and Derrida as Cultural Critique**—(Same as CASA 334B.) Responses, refutations, elaborations, modifications to texts in critical theory such as Gramsci, Lacan, and Derrida, and postcolonial and feminist theory. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

*3-5 units, Win (Mankekar, P)*

**MTL 390. Qualifying Paper**—Preparation and writing of the qualifying paper for the Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 395. Ad Hoc Graduate Seminar**—Graduate students (three or more) who wish to study a subject or an area not covered by regular courses and seminars may plan an informal seminar and approach a member of the faculty to supervise it. May be repeated for credit.

*1-5 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 396. Current Issues in Interdisciplinarity**—Dimensions of the interdisciplinary experience at MTL and Stanford; the future of interdisciplinarity in the humanities and social sciences. Possible outcomes include a jointly authored academic publication by MTL students, assessment of current curricula, statement of purpose of MTL, and 2007-08 conference on interdisciplinarity. May be repeated for credit.

*1-2 units, Aut, Win, Spr (Mudimbe-Boyi, E)*

**MTL 398. Research**—Students pursue a special subject of investigation under supervision of a member of the committee or another faculty member. Thesis work is not to be performed under this number. May be repeated for credit.

*1-15 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*

**MTL 399. Reading for Orals**—Reading in preparation for the University Oral Examination. May be repeated for credit.

*1-15 units, Aut, Win, Spr, Sum (Staff)*