

Literary and Cultural Studies

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: **Stock** (Director, Modern Languages), **Angelone** (Modern Languages), **Barnard** (American Studies), **Begley** (English), **Davis** (Swem Media Center), **Joyce** (English), **Kennedy** (English), **Knight** (English/American Studies), **Lowry** (English), **MacGovern** (History/American Studies), **MacGowan** (English), **Palermo** (Art History), **Prokhorov** (Modern Languages), **Prokhorova** (Modern Languages), **Stoddard** (Education), **Zuber** (English).

The program in Literary and Cultural Studies brings an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of culture. Students collaborate with an advisor to design an individualized and focused plan of study that includes courses from a range of departments and programs. Courses that involve the comparative analysis of more than one national literature are central to the program, as are those that explore the intersections of literature and theory. Moreover, students are encouraged to expand their definition of the “text” to include not just literature but also other media such as music, art, and cinema (indeed, LCST offers a special major concentration in “Film Studies,” which allows students to use the College’s Film minor as the core of their Literary and Cultural Studies major). Students are equally encouraged to take courses in related disciplines that help situate the creative text in terms of its cultural and historical contexts: thus, students majoring in Literary and Cultural Studies can also count toward their major courses from departments that are not primarily oriented toward the study of literature and the arts, such as Anthropology, History, Philosophy, and Sociology.

A major in Literary and Cultural Studies prepares students to pursue advanced degrees in literature and its allied academic disciplines. It is also appropriate preparation for any profession that emphasizes critical analysis and effective oral and written communication. A minor in Literary and Cultural Studies may be taken to enhance majors in the humanities, social sciences or interdisciplinary programs (see Minor Requirements).

More information is available at the Literary and Cultural Studies Program website: www.wm.edu/as/lcst

Requirements for Major

Students can follow one of two concentrations in fulfilling the major requirements for Literary and Cultural Studies.

Major Computing Requirement: LCST 302.

Major Writing Requirement: A student who satisfies all requirements for major in Literary and Cultural Studies also satisfies the Major Writing Requirement.

Cultural Studies Concentration

Required Credit hours: 36 (Of these, no more than 7 credit hours can be in courses numbered below 300, including the required course, LCST 201).

Requirements:

1. A sequence of four courses totaling 12-13 credits: namely, LCST 201, 301, and 302, and either FILM or LCST 401.
2. A minimum of 23 additional credits, chosen in consultation with a member of the Literary and Cultural Studies Advisory Committee to form a coherent program of study.

Film Studies Concentration

Required credit hours: 36 (Of these, no more than 11 credit hours can be in courses numbered below 300, including the required courses, FILM 150/250 and FILM 251).

Requirements:

1. Fulfillment of the requirements for the Film minor (19-22 credits). For full details on these requirements, see the entry under Film Studies in this catalog.

2. Completion of LCST 302 and either FILM or LCST 401 (6-7 credits).

3. A minimum of 7 additional credits chosen in consultation with a member of the LCST or Film Studies Advisory Committees to form a coherent program of study. These classes may consist entirely of additional elective courses on film but can also include courses in such departments as Anthropology, English, History, and Modern Languages and Literatures that add significantly to the student’s understanding of the cultural and historical contexts in which this twentieth-century art form has been produced.

For both major concentrations, as well as for the minor, any additional courses taken in Literary and Cultural Studies, such as a special topics course (LCST 351) or an additional upper-level seminar (FILM or LCST 401), automatically count toward the major.

English majors may include LCST 201 and 301 in the first 36 credits of their major program, but must explicitly alert the Registrar’s Office that they wish these courses to count toward their English major.

Students with the appropriate qualifications can pursue Honors in Literary and Cultural Studies: once their proposal is approved by an advisor and by the Program Director, they will be enrolled during their senior year in LCST 495 and 496. The Literary and Cultural Studies Program only grants Honors and does not grant differing degrees of Honors (e.g., Honors, High Honors, Highest Honors).

Language Requirements

Not every cross-cultural and interdisciplinary program of study completed under the rubric of Literary and Cultural Studies will require the advanced knowledge of another language. However, students are strongly urged to take at least one upper-level course in a foreign language, if it is in any way appropriate to their program of study. Knowledge of at least one foreign language not only facilitates the comparative inquiry that is central to Literary and Cultural Studies, it is also a prerequisite of graduate-level study in every literary discipline, including English.

Minor in Literary and Cultural Studies

Required credit hours: 18

Core requirements: 9-10 credits being the three core courses (LCST 201, 301, 401) and the remaining credits being elective courses that in some way enhance and broaden the scope of the student’s major; these electives, all of which must be numbered 300 and above, are to be chosen in consultation with a member of the Advisory Committee. (Courses from the department in which the student is majoring cannot be counted toward the minor; in the case of students majoring in other interdisciplinary programs, courses being counted toward the student’s major requirements cannot also be counted toward the LCST minor.)

Description of Courses

201. Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies.

(GER 5) *Fall and Spring (3,3) Cronin, Prokhorova, Zuber.*

Introductory-level course examining how literature and other forms of artistic expression (e.g., film and music) reflect, shape, and contest cultural values.

301. History and Theory of Cultural Studies.

Fall (3) Knight.

Premised on the notion that methods of literary analysis can be used to “read” cultural texts associated with popular or mass culture, this course surveys the critical methodologies associated with cultural studies and traces the history of the field.

302. Theories of Visual Culture.*Spring (3) Staff.*

This course introduces the discipline of visual culture studies by exploring how reality has been reproduced and transmitted (in print, film, and television) since the ascendancy of photography. Topics might include soap opera, advertising, pornography, melodrama, fashion, and slasher films.

351. Special Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies.*Fall and Spring (1-4, 1-4) Staff.*

Exploration of a particular topic in Literary and Cultural Studies. This course may be repeated for credit.

401. Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies.*Fall and Spring (3-4, 3-4) Staff.*

Study in depth of a specialized topic in Literary and Cultural Studies. This course may be repeated for credit.

†481. Independent Study.*Fall and Spring (1-3, 1-3) Staff.*

A tutorial on a topic agreed upon by the student and instructor and approved in advance by the Program Director. Open only to majors. No more than six hours of Independent Study can be counted toward the major.

†495-496. Honors.*Fall, Spring (3, 3) Staff.*

Each candidate for Honors in Literary and Cultural Studies will be responsible for: (a) formulation of a program of study with a faculty advisor (preferably by the end of their junior year); (b) completion of an original scholarly essay or creative work two weeks before the last day of classes of the semester in which the work is being completed; and (c) satisfactory performance in a comprehensive oral examination that focuses on the subject matter of the Honors project. Permission of the Program Director is required. For College provisions governing the Admission to Honors, see catalog section titled Honors and Special Programs.