

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

Director: Ursula K. Heise

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Courses offered by the Program in Modern Thought and Literature are listed under the subject code MTL on the *Stanford Bulletin's* ExploreCourses web site.

The program in Modern Thought and Literature admits students for the Ph.D. and a limited number for a coterminal B.A./M.A. Program.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

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 Individually Designed Majors Program. Students interested in this option should consult the Director of the Program in Modern Thought and Literature, in addition to the Dean's Office in the School of Humanities and Sciences, which administers the IDM Programs.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

Modern Thought and Literature (MTL) is an interdisciplinary graduate program advancing the study of critical issues in the modern world. Since 1971, MTL students have helped to redefine the cutting edge of many interdisciplinary fields and to reshape the ways in which disciplinary scholarship is understood and practiced. MTL graduates are leaders in fields such as American studies, ethnic studies, film studies, social and cultural studies, and women's studies, as well as disciplines such as English, cultural anthropology, and comparative literature.

The program trains students to understand the histories and methods of disciplines and to test their assumptions. It considers how disciplines shape knowledge and, most importantly, how interdisciplinary methods reshape objects of study. MTL students produce innovative analyses of diverse texts, forms, and practices, including those of literature, history, philosophy, anthropology, law, and science; film, visual arts, popular culture, and performance; and material culture and technology.

Each student constructs a unique program of study suited to his or her research. Students have focused on such areas as gender and sexuality; race and ethnicity; science, technology, and medicine; media and performance; legal studies; and critical and social theory. The program's faculty is drawn from fields in the humanities and social sciences, as well as from education, law, and medicine. As interdisciplinary study is impossible without an understanding of the disciplines under consideration, each student is expected to master the methods of one discipline and to gain a foundation in a second field.

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.

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 degrees 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 Axess.
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. One of the two introductory seminars, MTL 334A, Concepts of Modernity 1, or 334B, Concepts of Modernity 2, 5 units.
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.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

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. MTL 334A,B, Concepts of Modernity 1 and 2 (5 units each).
2. MTL 299, Edgework: New Directions in the Study of Culture (2 units, Spring Quarter), required of all first-year students.
3. 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.
4. 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 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.
5. *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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. *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.
9. *Annual Review*: the program and progress of each student must be approved by the Committee in Charge at the end of each academic year.
10. *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.
11. *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.
12. *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.

PH.D. IN MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE AND HUMANITIES

The program participates in the Graduate Program in Humanities leading to a Ph.D. degree in Modern Thought and Literature and Humanities. This option is available only to students already enrolled in the program. The Graduate Program in Humanities is no longer accepting new students.

MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE (MTL)

GRADUATE COURSES IN MODERN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE

MTL 299. Edgework: New Directions in the Study of Culture
Workshop. Required of first-year students in the doctoral program. Methodologies of different disciplines, the possibility and difficulty of interdisciplinary work within these disciplines, and their connection with the individual projects of students in Modern Thought and Literature. May be repeated for credit.

1-3 units, Spr (Staff)

MTL 334A. Concepts of Modernity 1: Philosophical Foundations

(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. Concepts of Modernity 2: The Study of Culture in the Age of Globalization

(Same as ENGLISH 334B) 20th-century theory with focus on the concept of culture and methods of studying it from diverse disciplines including sociology, anthropology, history, literary and cultural studies. Modernization, postmodernization, and globalization in their relations to culture broadly understood, cultures in their regional, national, and diasporic manifestations, and cultures as internally differentiated such as high and low culture, subcultures, and media cultures. Readings include Gramsci, Adorno, Horkheimer, Williams, Hall, Gilroy, Hebdige, Jameson, García Canclini, Foucault, Bourdieu, Geertz, Clifford, Saïd, Appadurai, and Appiah.

5 units, Win (Heise, U)

MTL 390. Qualifying Paper

Preparation and writing of the qualifying paper for the Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature. (Staff)

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

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

MTL 398. Research

Students pursue a special subject of investigation under supervision of a member of the committee or another faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

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

MTL 399. Reading for Orals

Reading in preparation for the University Oral Examination. May be repeated for credit.

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

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