

MALS

Master of Arts In Liberal Studies

S p e c t r u m

Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan

Winter 2011
Volume 6 Issue 2

Letter from the Director

One of the most satisfying events for a program director is to see students complete their degrees and graduate. It is therefore with a good deal of pleasure that I can begin this letter with congratulations to three women who completed their MALS degrees in the fall of 2010. The women are: Jane Hellmann, Brenda Bujold, and Samantha Franz. Each project was unique to the student and her specific area of interest, but all shared the admirable qualities of dedication, creativity, and hard work. MALS is proud to congratulate them on their achievement.



These projects are also testimony to the dedication of professors who gave of their time and energy to guide these three talented women on their final step toward their MA degrees. I gratefully acknowledge the faculty members who volunteered to serve on the women's final project committees and helped to bring their projects to fruition. The women and their committee members are as follows:

Jane Hellmann, "Personality, Psychology, and Russian Fiction: An Analysis of Tatyana Tolstaya's Elderly Characters." Committee: Chair, Deb McGinnis, Psychology; Tamara Jhashi, Art and Art History; Jeffrey Insko, English.

Brenda Bujold, "The Habits of Women: Social Dynamics of Commitment to Religious Life." Committee: Chair, Charles Mabee, Religious Studies; Henri Gooren, Anthropology; Linda Benson, History.

Samantha Franz, "Project Michigan: What's Driving the State's Resolute in Uncertain Times." Committee: Chair, Jim Nugent, Writing and Rhetoric; Kathleen Battles, Communication and Journalism; Paul Kubicek, Political Science.

Congratulations to both the students and their faculty mentors!

(continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

- **Page 2** **Director's Letter (cont.)**
- **Page 3** **Spring Celebration**
- **Page 4-5** **Summer 2011 Classes**
- **Page 5** **Career/Writing Help**
- **Page 6** **Useful Information**
- **Page 7** **Fall 2011 Colloquium**
- **Page 8** **Fall 2011 Courses**
- **Page 9-11** **Winter 2012 Courses**

(Letter from the Director, continued from page 1)

I also want to take this opportunity to draw attention to some of the new classes that MALS will be offering in the summer and the 2011-2012 academic year, particularly our new online courses. I know that MALS students relish the classroom experience of discussion and debate that is at the heart of graduate seminars, and I know we all value the face-to-face exchanges that this interaction brings. But there are times when getting to class on campus can be difficult, especially for those who must balance work, family and study. Family issues and demanding work schedules can make attending class regularly a challenge. In these circumstances, an online course allows students to continue making progress toward their degree while still attending to other responsibilities.

This spring, MALS will offer three online courses, all of which seem especially appropriate to the online format. The first of these will be taught by Professor Jennifer Heisler, chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism. Her course, LBS 511: Communication Theory, is very timely given the dramatic changes currently underway in north Africa and the Middle East fueled in part by the power of instant communication and online social networking. Additional courses came to my attention as a result of student interest in music. Professor Phyllis White's "What's on Your Playlist" draws on the wealth of musical forms available online as the basis for an exploration of a wide variety of musical genres. It promises to be an adventure in listening, writing, and exchanging of ideas about music with an engaged group of like-minded students. The third online option offered this summer is a course on jazz and blues taught by Professor David Kidger whose knowledge of these forms is nothing short of staggering. So, if you have been curious about studying online and want to give it a try, there could be no better way to start than by enrolling for one of these great courses.

This spring we will celebrate the year's accomplishments and enjoy each other's company at the Spring Celebration set for Friday, April 22, in the Oakland Room, of the Oakland Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Please see the announcement on the next page). I hope to see you there!

With warm wishes to you all,
Linda Benson
Director, MALS Program

SPRING

SPRING

SPRING

MALS Spring Celebration

Friday, April 22, 2011

6-8 pm

Oakland Room in the Oakland Center

*Join your fellow MALS Students and Faculty
for a casual dinner and program information.*

R.S.V.P to Graciela at osterber@oakland.edu or by phone at

(248) 370-2154 by April 19, 2010



Summer 2011 MALS Schedule of Classes

LBS 511 Multicultural Communication

(This course meets at Macomb University Center)

6/27—8/17 Tuesday/Thursday 5:50-8:50PM K. Hay

This course begins from the premise that culture is inextricably linked to history and economic, material conditions. Students examine the relations of power, as in colonial contact and whiteness, and geopolitical power-- the global distribution of wealth, that gave rise to the current multicultural conditions in which they live. We examine these conditions through the lenses of race, gender, class, nation and national identity, heritage, ethnicity, age and ability.

LBS 511 Communication Theory

5/2—6/22 (Online course) J. Heisler

This course will focus on central concepts in communication and the relationship of communication to system theory, the acquisition of knowledge, the nature of language and the maintenance of ethical values.

LBS 512 Politics Through Film

5/2—6/22 Monday/Wednesday 6:30—9:50PM P. Piskulich

Art reflects and shapes reality. This course uses film to address various concepts of society polity, justice and more. The main goal is to develop group dialogue and critical discourse about politics and film.

LBS 513 Revolutions and Intervention

6/27—8/17 Tuesday/Thursday 6:30—9:50PM A. Epstein

This course examines revolution and counterrevolution as products of U.S. efforts to establish a liberal international order geared to free trade and cross-border investment through systematic interference in the affairs of sovereign countries. Focus is on the motivations, methods and consequences of official and sponsored interventions on a global scale. "Democracy promotion" is afforded special consideration.

LBS 512 Jazz and Blues

5/2—6/22 (Online course) D. Kidger

This course surveys jazz and blues styles as well as performers, and will feature examples that illustrate the significance of these American musical forms. Both will be presented in the context of their historical, social, economic and political backgrounds.

Summer 2011 MALS Schedule of Classes

LBS 512 What's On Your Playlist? Aesthetic Experiences in Music

5/2—6/22 (Online course) P. White

Digital music is a fixture in contemporary culture. Thousands of musical works from globally and historically diverse settings are literally in the pockets of every student. An online course is a natural environment to foster deeper understanding of ourselves and of one another through music via the very internet that peppers our devices with this wide-ranging supply of music.

This course will enable students to develop and articulate a personal aesthetic philosophy rooted in respect for multiple perspectives and open-mindedness to the diversity of musical experiences one will encounter during a lifetime of listening.

LBS 590 Independent Study

LBS 600 Master's Project

OU Career Services

Career Services prepares students and alumni for lifelong career success. Their comprehensive services include individual career advising, resume critiques, mock interviews, electronic resources, career fairs and career-related programs. Career Services facilitates opportunities through OUCareerLink.com, which is a one-stop-shop connection for on and off campus student employment, full and part-time jobs and internships.

154 North Foundation Hall
(248) 370-3250
careers@oakland.edu oakland.edu/careerservices
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am—5 pm; 6:30 pm (fall and winter only)

Need Help Researching a Paper???

The staff at the Kresge Library is ready and willing to help.

Schedule a Research Consultation with a Kresge Librarian. During the consultation, you will get a 30-45 minute one-on-one session with a librarian who will help you develop a research strategy to identify resources relevant to your topic/interests.

Check out the library page at: <http://library.oakland.edu/ask/index.htm>

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Did you know that Oakland University boasts:

- 19,053 (15,530 undergraduate, 3,523 graduate) as of fall 2010
- A student-to-Faculty ratio of 25 to 1
- 94% faculty with Doctoral Degrees
- More than 12.3 million in research grants and funding
- An employment rate of nearly 90% within six month of graduation
- More than 84,000 alumni with 75% living in Michigan
- More than 747,000 books in the Kresge Library
- 1,441 acres of wooded hills and meadows
- 48 major buildings
- State-of-the-art Recreation and Athletics building
- Non-profit, student run community radio station. Tune into WXOU at 88.3 or listen live online at www.wxou.org.

STAY INFORMED

Campus News

The Oakland Post

The Oakland Post is the student-run newspaper at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. Founded in 1973, *The Oakland Post* has provided an independent source of news for students, faculty and alumni for decades.

Released every Wednesday throughout the fall and winter semesters (and periodically over the summer), *The Oakland Post* can be found in nearly all buildings on campus and in several off-campus locations in the surrounding area

National and International News

Free copies of *The New York Times* and *USA Today* are available daily for students in buildings throughout campus. Just use your Spirit Card to access the news boxes!



LBS 500
Introductory Colloquium
Fall 2011
**Heroes, Villains,
and Fools**



Tales of heroes and villains have intrigued and appalled us for centuries, while fools have made us laugh or filled us with scorn over their silly, irrational behavior. But who determines what is heroic, villainous or foolish? What role do these categories play in the realms of history and politics, and how have they been presented in literature, art, and popular culture? Who ultimately is the arbiter of what people and actions should bear the labels of hero, villain or fool, and how have these notions changed over time?

This course explores these three very human categories from the perspective of various academic disciplines. In the process, it introduces the methods and theory of interdisciplinary research in which findings from disparate fields help us to discover new ways of comprehending the world around us.



Professor Linda Benson
Tuesday
6:30—9:50PM

Fall 2011 MALS Courses

British Post Colonial Literature

Monday 6:30—9:50PM

A. Gilson **LBS 511**

British and Anglophonic literature since 1900. Authors may include Joyce, Woolf, Eliot, Rhys, Beckett, Rao and Achebe.



19th Century Art

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00—11:47AM

T. Jhashi **LBS 512**

This course surveys the major artists and artistic movements from the late eighteenth century through the end of the nineteenth century, including Neo-Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Postimpressionism, and Symbolism. This course focuses primarily on the art of European cultures, with an emphasis on French art.

Alcohol, Drugs and Society

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00—2:47PM

A. Burgess-Proctor **LBS 513**

An overview of the sociology of substance use and abuse. Includes a review of sociological perspectives, social control of alcohol and drugs, descriptions of alcohol/drug behavior and treatment programs. Also explores ways in which substance abuse problems can be addressed by policy makers, health care professionals and practitioners in the field of substance abuse.

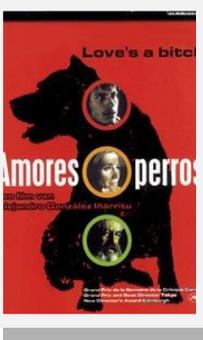


Winter 2012 MALS Courses

Latin American Film and Literature: Differing Faces of Violence in Contemporary Latin America

MALS Seminar in Language & Literature
LBS 501 Monday 6:30-9:50 PM

Professor Aldona Pobutsky
Modern Languages and Literatures Department



This interdisciplinary course examines the multifold aspects of violence as depicted in various novels, dramas, documentaries, short stories and film across Latin America. It explores state violence towards 'others,' be they political dissidents in Chile or Argentina during the Dirty War era or Hispanic immigrants who attempt to cross the U.S-Mexican border illegally. It tackles social issues of poverty and narcotrafficking in Brazil and Colombia and their traumatic effect on the marginal Latin American subjects from humble origins. It also explores violence of patriarchal cultural economies that have historically permeated larger social structures, leading to women's subjugation.

Fall 2011/Winter 2012 course
description booklets are now available.

Some exciting courses are being
offered. Watch your mailbox and be
sure to register as soon as possible to
secure a spot!

Chinese Art

LBS 512

Tuesday/Thursday 3:00—4:47PM Professor Shuishan Yu



This course will focus on the development of architecture, sculpture, painting and other art forms (bronze, ceramic, lacquer ware, jade) in China from prehistory to modern times.

Peoples and Cultures of Mexico & Central America

Wednesday 5:30—8:50PM LBS 513 Professor Henri Gooren



This course will examine the peoples and cultures of *Mesoamerica*: Mexico and Central America. Many of them come to the U.S. as immigrants and eventually become new citizens here. The course examines their history of conquest and resistance, their cultures, their economies, their religions, and the contemporary situation of both the indigenous population and the mestizos. Rich ethnographic case studies from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica will be explored and explained – including the recent Zapatista guerrilla uprising in Chiapas, Mexico.



Ancient Greece & Rome

LBS 512 Professor Jace Crouch

Thursday 6:30—9:50PM

This course provides an historic overview of the various intellectual, political, and cultural legacies of ancient Greece and Rome, from the Homeric period to the collapse of the Roman Empire.

The Politics of Water

LBS 513

Tuesday/Thursday
10:00—11:47AM

Professor Pat Piskulich



Population growth, overuse, and global warming are placing unprecedented strain on the planet's water resources. That water is a public good not circumscribed by political boundaries complicates politics and policymaking substantially. Closest to home, for example, conflicts over rights to and protection of the Great Lakes have local, state, national, and international dimensions. Whether technology can limit scarcity is also worth exploring. But it is not at all farfetched to imagine a world in which hydro politics is every bit as significant at petro politics.

MALS

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

IMPORTANT DATES

March 23	MALS Coffee and Dessert 5-6:30 PM
April 18	Winter Classes End 10:00 PM
April 19	Study Day
April 20-26	Final Exams
April 22	MALS Spring Celebration, 5-7 P.M.
April 30	Spring Commencement
May 2	Summer I Semester Classes Begin
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday
June 1	MALS Application Deadline for Fall 2011
June 27	Summer II Semester classes begin
July 4	Independence Day holiday
September 1	Fall semester classes begin, 7:30 A.M.

MALS Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Linda Benson Ph.D., Director
benson@oakland.edu Phone: 248.370.2154