

Joseph Manca, Ph.D.
(Columbia University)
Nina J. Cullinan Professor

Lida Oukaderova, Ph.D.
(University of Texas, Austin)
Associate Professor

English

Sarah Ellenzweig, Ph.D.
(Rutgers University)
Associate Professor

Betty Joseph, Ph.D.
(University of Minnesota)
Professor

Helena Michie, Ph.D.
(University of Pennsylvania)
Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor

Alexander Regier, Ph.D.
(University of Cambridge)
Professor

History

Peter C. Caldwell, Ph.D.
(Cornell University)
Samuel G. McCann Professor

Daniel Cohen, Ph.D. (New York University)
Samuel W. and Goldye Marian Spain
Associate Professor

Michael Maas, Ph.D.
(University of California, Berkeley)
William Gaines Twyman Professor

Aysha Pollnitz, Ph.D.
(University of Cambridge)
Associate Professor

Lora Wildenthal, Ph.D.
(University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
John Antony Weir Professor

Philosophy

Donald Morrison, Ph.D.
(Princeton University)
Professor

Administration

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European Studies: A Profile



RICE HUMANITIES

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

The major in European studies is an interdisciplinary program in the School of Humanities. Its focus is a critical understanding of European cultures and societies in a global context that draws on the expertise and research that is unique to the humanities at Rice.

What Europe is remains contested. Greek philosophy, the Enlightenment, revolution, equality, justice and modern democracy belong to Europe as much as violence, colonialism, imperial ambition and genocide. The major in European studies introduces students to the many different roles Europe has played, and continues to play, for the cultural and political situation the world is in today.

Historically ranging from antiquity to the present day, the major in European studies brings into conversation literature, philosophy, history, political economy, the history of art, media and film studies, and women and gender studies. This highly interdisciplinary approach is challenging, and it provides students with a particularly rich, broad and deep understanding of present day Europe, its cultural heritage and Europe's place in a global context.

The major in European studies reflects the strong international standing and reputation of the humanities at Rice, and it also reflects the foundational importance of the humanities at large for a well-ordered pluralist and diverse society in a global context. Faculty teaching in the major come from across the School of Humanities.

In addition to a series of elective courses on European topics across different departments students take two introductory courses and one capstone course:

- **EURO 101**-Introduction to European Literature and Culture I: From Antiquity to the Renaissance
- **EURO 102**-Introduction to European Literature and Culture II: From the Renaissance to the Present
- **EURO 401**-Constructing Europe: Contested Identities

The introductory courses familiarize students with the major literary, philosophical and political texts and other cultural artifacts of Europe, dating from Greek antiquity to the present day. These courses teach students to critically analyze major themes and issues of European culture, political thought and philosophy, both in relation to their original context and in relation to present-day Europe.

The required capstone course offers a critical investigation of the cultural narratives, social imaginaries and political tensions that have shaped Europe. Topics may include reason and freedom, secularism, religious toleration and persecution, migration and nationalism, empire and colonialism, globalization and the ongoing project of a European Union. This course will also allow students to reflect on Europe's self-representation vis-à-vis its perceived "other," which is always historically contingent.

Core Faculty

Andrea Bajani

Writer-in-residence
European literature

Martin Blumenthal-Barby, Ph.D. (Yale University)

Associate Professor
German studies, media theory, film studies

Jacqueline Couti, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)

Laurence H. Favrot Professor
French and francophone studies,
transatlantic studies, women, gender and
sexuality studies

Christian J. Emden, Ph.D. (University of Cambridge)

Francis Moody Newman Professor
Modern intellectual history and political
thought

Julie Fette, Ph.D. (New York University / EHESS, Paris)

Associate Professor
French studies and social history

Deborah A. Harter, Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley)

Associate Professor
French studies and comparative literature

Hilary Mackie, Ph.D. (Princeton University)

Associate Professor
Classical studies

Scott McGill, Ph.D. (Yale University)

Deedee McMurtry Professor
Classical studies and ancient Rome

Deborah Nelson-Campbell, Ph.D. (Ohio State University)

Professor
French studies and medieval culture

Astrid Oesmann, Ph.D. (Columbia University)

Associate Professor
German studies, Jewish studies,
critical theory

Ted Somerville, Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Lecturer
Classical studies

Philip R. Wood, Ph.D. (Yale University)

Associate Professor and Program Adviser
French studies, comparative literature,
postcolonialism

Harvey Yunis, Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Andrew W. Mellon Professor
Ancient Greece and Rome, ancient political
and rhetorical theory

Affiliated Faculty

Art History

Graham Bader, Ph.D. (Harvard University)

Professor

Leo Costello, Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr College)

Associate Professor

Sophie Crawford-Brown, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania)

Assistant Professor