Lecture I: “Orientalism, Arabic, and the Threshold of World Literature”

Yaseen Noorani, University of Arizona

Friday, January 25th (3:30 PM – 5:00 PM), 301 Wilson Hall

Yaseen Noorani is an Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at the University of Arizona. His research centers on how social norms and ideals such as virtue, nationality, and the public/private division, have been imagined and represented in Middle Eastern culture in both pre-modern and modern eras. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, he is the author of Culture and Hegemony in the Colonial Middle East (2010), and the co-editor of Counterhegemony in the Colony and Postcolony (2007).


Nahid Mozaffari, Leipzig University

Friday, February 22nd (3:30 PM – 5:00 PM), 301 Wilson Hall

Nahid Mozaffari is currently a Senior Researcher at the Humanities Center for Advanced Studies, Leipzig University. Her research interests include intellectual history, history of slavery, and social history (19th – 20th centuries) in the Middle East. She is a member of the research team of Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran, a digital archive of textual, oral and visual materials related to the lives of women during the Qajar era (1796-1925) based at Harvard University. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, she is currently writing and editing The History of Slavery in Qajar Iran, and has previously edited Strange Times, My Dear: The PEN Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature (2005, 2013).

Lecture III: “The Representation of the City in the Strophic Poetry (Azjāl) of Ibn Quẓmān”

Jean Dangler, Tulane University

Friday, March 29th (3:30 PM – 5:00 PM), 301 Wilson Hall

Jean Dangler is a Professor of Non-Modern Iberian Studies and Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Tulane University. Her research interests include the history of medicine, the history of the body, the history of the Spanish language, multicultural Iberia, theories of alterity, and globalization and the Middle Ages. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, she is the author of Mediating Fictions: Literature, Women Healers, and the Go-Between in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia (2001), Making Difference in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia (2005), and Edging toward Iberia (2017).

Lecture IV: “Loss, Corruption, Theft: The Perilous Lives of Texts in Medieval South India”

Valerie Stoker, Wright State University

Friday, April 12th (3:30 PM – 5:00 PM), 301 Wilson Hall

Valerie Stoker is the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research at Wright State University. Her principal area of research focuses on late medieval and early modern South Indian Hinduism and her secondary area of research examines religious pluralism in secular democracies. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, she is the author of Polemics and Patronage in the City of Victory: Viśāvatīrtha, Hindu Sectarianism, and the Sixteenth-Century Vijayanagara Court (2016).

Lecture V: “Rap and Revolt in the Maghribi City”

Nouri Gana, UCLA

Friday, April 26th (3:30 PM – 5:00 PM), 301 Wilson Hall

Nouri Gana is an Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA. He teaches and researches in the intersecting fields of modern and contemporary multilingual Arab literatures and cultures of North Africa and the Middle East; Arab popular music and film; comparative ethnic, Muslim and Arab diasporas studies, namely in Euro-Americas; and postcolonial and modernist comparative cultural studies. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, he is the author of Signifying Loss: Toward a Poetics of Narrative Mourning (2011), and the editor of The Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English (2015), and The Making of the Tunisian Revolution (2013).