GRADUATE PROGRAM

ROMANCE LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures celebrates the rich history, language, literature and culture of the French, Italian and Spanish speaking countries through scholarly eminence, teaching excellence and the intellectual engagement of our students. With 16 faculty members and approximately 25 graduate students, we are able to provide individual mentoring and small class sizes to ensure that the program meets each student’s academic needs and goals.

Our faculty is diverse in background and interests, but united in its commitment to the development of each graduate student in the program. Students are active participants in lively departmental discussions about literature, culture, pedagogy and other professional matters and, with faculty support and direction, become excellent teachers and scholars themselves, as well as culturally articulate members of society.

Recent M.A. graduates have been hired as faculty in a variety of positions at both the college and secondary levels. Others have chosen to pursue more advanced degrees in their fields or have found employment outside of the field of education. An extensive list of the career paths of our graduates is available on our website.

The curriculum offers broad coverage of French, Francophone, Iberian, Latin American and Italian literatures. Survey courses are interspersed with seminars that propose innovative models for approaching literary questions. Critical theory is an essential aspect of our graduate program, as is film and cinematic narration. With few exceptions, courses are taught in the target language.

All of our master’s candidates are fully supported with teaching fellowships. Teaching fellowships include full tuition and a stipend. Summer research fellowships are available on a competitive basis. For more information, see our website: bc.edu/rll.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL) Department offers master’s degrees in:

- French
- Hispanic Studies
- Italian

The program offers the opportunity to explore important aspects of literature, film, culture and language to students with a variety of interests: scholars who need a broad understanding of their chosen field and who may wish to continue their studies toward the Ph.D.; current or prospective primary and secondary school teachers who seek to further their professional development, especially in the areas of language and culture; and qualified candidates in other fields, such as international business or public health, who may also benefit from in-depth study of the linguistic and intellectual traditions of French-, Italian- or Spanish-speaking cultures.
Degree Requirements

OVERVIEW

❖ Completion of 30 credits of coursework with a minimum average of B or better.
❖ Completion of the independent research project (see below).
❖ Participation in department workshops and practica on pedagogy and professional formation, including the department orientation for new teaching fellows held during the last week of August.

Formal evaluation of the student’s performance is conducted at the beginning of the second semester of both the first and second years of the program.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

All M.A. candidates are required to complete an independent research project (IRP) between their first and second years. The IRP is a critical essay that represents a significant revision or extension of a paper written in a graduate course taken during the first two semesters of study. The candidate’s presentation and defense of the paper is made before the faculty of the section in the target language.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

M.A. candidates may receive a maximum of six credits for courses taken in the department in RLL literature courses other than the primary language of study. This includes courses in English in literary theory, linguistics and pedagogy. Included in this limit are any credits earned from courses in related areas of study taken in other Boston College departments or at other universities. With the permission of their advisor and the graduate program director, students in the second year may enroll in courses offered at the universities of the Boston area consortium: Boston University, Tufts University, Brandeis University and Boston College.

Please consult our website for additional distribution requirements: bc.edu/rll.

FRENCH

STEPHEN C. BOLD
Associate Professor
Ph.D., New York University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
❖ 17th-century French literature
❖ Linguistics

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Borges, Inventor of the Pensées, or La busca de Pascal.”
  Romance Quarterly 52(2) (Spring 2005): 115-34.
❖ “L’Usage de la raison: A Brief Literary Survey from Mersenne to Pascal.”
  Romance Quarterly 50(3) (Summer 2003): 163-75.
  Romance Quarterly 50(2) (Spring 2003): 82-160.
❖ “The Anxiety of Senecan Influence in Racine, or Phèdre in the Labyrinth.”
❖ “Labyrinths of Invention from the New Novel to OuLiPo.”

JOSEPH BREINES
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Yale University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
❖ 18th- and 19th-century French literature

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Jacques le fataliste: Finding Myself in the Work of Another.”
❖ “A Trial Against Myself”: Identity and Determinism in Diderot’s Jacques le fataliste.”
❖ “Submerging and Drowning” the Characters: Zola’s Wet Determinism.”

RÉGINE JEAN-CHARLES
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
❖ Francophone African and Caribbean literatures and cultures
❖ Gender studies
❖ Feminist theory
❖ African film

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Memwa se paswa: Reanimating the Slave Past in Haiti.”
ESTHER GIMENO UGALDE  
Assistant Professor of the Practice  
Ph.D., University of Vienna (Austria)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION  
• Linguistics  
• Hispanic cinema  
• Catalan and Iberian studies

RECENT PUBLICATIONS  

ERNESTO LIVON GROSSMAN  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., New York University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION  
• Latin American literature  
• Experimental poetics and literary theory  
• Film studies

RECENT PUBLICATIONS  
❖ “La primera persona en dos documentales argentinos recientes: La televisión y yo de Andrés Di Tella y Los rubios de Albertina Carri.” In Entre discursos: Nuevos espacios y nuevas lecturas, ed. A. Amar Sánchez. Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2008.  

FILMS  
❖ “MADI” (2016): A brief film about the constructivist movement that started in Argentina and Uruguay during the mid 1940s.  
❖ “Brascó” (2013): A documentary film presenting a history of political and cultural life in Argentina of the last 50 years through the eyes of one of the country’s leading senior intellectuals, Miguel Brascó.  

IRENE MIZRAHI  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Connecticut

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION  
• 20th-century Peninsular literature  
• 19th-century romanticism  
• Bécquer

RECENT PUBLICATIONS  

ELIZABETH RHODES  
Professor  
Ph.D., Bryn Mawr College

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION  
• Early Modern Spanish literature  
• Theology and religious culture  
• Women’s studies and feminist theory

RECENT PUBLICATIONS  
**FACULTY PROFILES**

† “Las vidas de Francisco de Borja y las normas del género.” In Francisco de Borja y su tiempo: Política, religión y cultura en la edad moderna, eds. E. García Hernán and P. Ryan, 681-87. Albatros Ediciones and Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu, 2011.

**WAN TANG**
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Yale University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
• 19th- to 21st-century Spanish literature and culture
• Fantastic and Gothic narratives
• Gender studies

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**CINTHYA TORRES**
Visiting Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
• 20th- and 21st-century Spanish-American and Brazilian literatures
• Andean and Amazonian studies
• Literary napping

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**ITALIAN**

**MATTIA ACETOSO**
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Yale University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
• 20th-century Italian literature, poetry and poetics
• Italian contemporary cinema
• Italian and European Romanticism
• History of opera and opera librettos
• Theory and practice of translation

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
† "Misteriose vicende di un tempo diverso: L’Orologio tra viaggio, sogno e magia.” Forum Italicum (forthcoming).
† Translator (into English) of L’orione, libretto by Francesco Melosio, eds. D. Daolmi and N. Usula. Bärenreiter, 2013.

**FRANCO MORMANDO**
Professor and Department Chairperson
Ph.D., Harvard University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
• Popular and religious literature and preaching, 15th-17th centuries
• Social context of Renaissance and Baroque art
• Bubonic plague
• Bernardino of Siena
• Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Baroque Rome

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
LAURIE SHEPARD  
Associate Professor  
Ph.D., Boston College

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION  
- Medieval lyric  
- Dante and Boccaccio  
- Italian Renaissance comedy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS  

OUTCOMES

Placement  
Many of our students have found employment in the academy as tenure-track faculty or as lecturers. In addition, our students teach in public and private high schools. Others have gone on to successful careers in publishing and academic administration. An extensive list of the career paths of our graduates is available on our website at bc.edu/rll.

COURSES

The combined and varied interests of the faculty, as indicated in the faculty profiles, ensure that the department offers a wide variety of graduate course electives. While the number and content of the graduate electives varies from year to year, the following list is illustrative of the range of courses offered.

FALL 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tragedy</th>
<th>Bold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth-Century French Studies</td>
<td>Yamaguchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti Cherie: Haitian Literature and Culture</td>
<td>Jean-Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth-Century Fiction</td>
<td>Newmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dante’s Divine Comedy in Translation</td>
<td>Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernini and the Baroque</td>
<td>Mormando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Textual Analysis in Spanish</td>
<td>Mizrahi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spanish Civil War in Words and Images</td>
<td>Tang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
<td>Livon-Grosman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Development of the Romance Languages</td>
<td>Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate and Professional Seminar</td>
<td>Jean-Charles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPRING 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renaissance France: Humanism and Reformation</th>
<th>Bold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paris Noir: From La Nègritude to le Hip Hop</td>
<td>Jean Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth-Century French Poetry Study</td>
<td>Yamaguchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manzoni’s I Promessi Sposi</td>
<td>Mormando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteenth-Century Florence: The Humanists</td>
<td>Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Spanish Drama</td>
<td>Mizrahi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroic Paradigms of Early Modern Spain</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature and Culture of the Baroque</td>
<td>Beckjord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Linguistics and Teaching Methodology in Spanish</td>
<td>Gimeno Ugalde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings in Theory</td>
<td>Newmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Assistantships in Lombardy, Italy: The SITE Program

Thanks to a special formal arrangement with the government of the region of Lombardy, Italy, Boston College is pleased to be able to send one student each year to work as an English language assistant in the schools of the towns and cities of the region (excluding Milan).

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Graduate students receive pedagogical training under the supervision of language coordinators who work closely with them to guide their development through classroom visitations, workshops and personalized instruction. All teaching fellows participate in an intensive orientation program prior to the beginning of the academic year.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM

The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University.

BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The University is home to eight libraries, containing 2.95 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O’Neill Library, Boston College’s main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest and to answer any research-related questions.

THE BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The Boston Library Consortium allows Boston College students access to millions of volumes and other services at 19 area institutions in addition to the world-class resources available through the Boston College Library System.

Academic Resources

RESEARCH AND STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Exchange Program with the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris

Each year, a Boston College graduate student is granted the position of pensionnaire étranger at the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS) in Paris. Founded in 1794 and located in the heart of the Latin Quarter (on the Rue d’Ulm), the ENS is the single most prestigious institution of higher learning in France. This position entails free lodging in one of the campuses of the ENS, free access to classes and seminars, academic advising by distinguished ENS professors and library privileges at one of the best libraries in Paris. The exchange program is open to all Boston College graduate students with an excellent command of French, although priority will be granted to students in Romance Languages and Literatures, and in general to those who can demonstrate that they intend to make the most out of this intellectual and academic experience.
Boston College is located on the edge of one of the world’s most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England’s most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country’s greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and, of course, Fenway Park’s beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England’s best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city’s intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

The University

Boston College is a Jesuit university with 14,250 students, 805 full-time faculty and more than 175,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston’s largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation: Boston College is ranked 31st among national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,000 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, Graduate School of Social Work and School of Theology and Ministry.

General Resources

HOUSING

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.
JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART

Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the main campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a one-and-a-half day “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

FLYNN RECREATION COMPLEX

The 144,000-square-foot Flynn Recreation Complex houses a running track; tennis, basketball, volleyball, squash and racquetball courts; an aquatics center with pool and dive well; saunas and more. Its 10,000-square-foot Fitness Center offers more than 100 pieces of cardio equipment, a full complement of strength training equipment and free weights, an air-conditioned spin studio and three air-conditioned group fitness studios. During the academic year, BC Rec holds more than 80 group fitness classes per week in a variety of disciplines, including Zumba, spin, yoga, strength training, Pilates and more.

BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER

The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.
Admission Requirements

The application deadline for fall admission is February 1. Please visit bc.edu/gsas for detailed information on how to apply.

Students applying to the M.A. program must either have a bachelor’s degree in the language of proposed study or have otherwise achieved general coverage of their major literature at the undergraduate level (at least four semesters of period or general courses in the major literature must be included in the student’s undergraduate record). Native speakers of French, Italian or Spanish applying from abroad should demonstrate a strong background in literature and the humanities.

Application requirements Include:

- **Application Form:** Submitted online, via the GSAS website.
- **Application Fee:** $75, non-refundable.
- **Abstract of Courses Form:** A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
- **Official Transcripts:** Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferral from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test:** Official score report required for all applicants.
- **Two Letters of Recommendation:** From professors or supervisors. It is highly advisable that at least one letter be from an academic source.
- **Statement of Purpose:** A brief (1-2 page) discussion of an applicant’s preparation, motivation and goals for their proposed course of study.
- **Writing Sample:** Preferably an analysis of a literary text in the target language.
- **Proof of English Proficiency:** (International only) Official TOEFL/IELTS reports accepted.

Financial Assistance

**DEPARTMENT FUNDING**

**Fellowships**
The RLL Department offers teaching fellowships and graduate assistantships on a competitive basis to qualified applicants. All include tuition remission for five or six courses per year (the standard load for full-time students) and a competitive stipend. The annual stipend for a teaching fellowship currently stands at $18,500, and the graduate assistantship currently stands at $9,200. Qualified candidates are offered two years of support.

**Fellowships-in-Residence at Language Houses**
Each year, two graduate students are offered residential fellowships at the Casa Hispánica and the Maison Française. Fellows-in-residence are offered free housing and a competitive stipend. They are responsible for the planning of activities designed to improve the students’ language skills, enrich their knowledge of other cultures, and contribute to their intellectual and personal development.

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID**
Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-552-3300 or 800-294-0294.

**OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS**
The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both the public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects. In the recent past, graduate students have received research support from prominent agencies, corporations and organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the American Chemical Society and the American Association of University Women.