



**DIVISION OF
LANGUAGES
AND
LITERATURE
AT BARD**

The Division of Languages and Literature offers majors in the areas of literature; written arts; and foreign languages, cultures, and literatures. Graduates go on to publish fiction, poetry, memoirs, graphic novels, true crime nonfiction, plays, and magazine articles; have careers at national magazines, publishing houses, universities, literary agencies, newspapers, marketing and public relations firms, and nonprofits; and several are highly regarded translators. Bard's approach to the liberal arts curriculum provides students and faculty with the opportunity to rethink traditional boundaries of academic divisions and disciplines. This flexible framework allows students in the division to create plans of interdisciplinary study that integrate the content and methodology of multiple fields such as Africana studies, Asian studies, classical studies, experimental humanities, French studies, gender and sexuality studies, German studies, Italian studies, Jewish studies, medieval studies, Middle Eastern studies, Russian and Eurasian studies, Spanish studies, and Victorian studies.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES, CULTURES, AND LITERATURE

At Bard, the study of a foreign language provides students with the opportunity to acquire a critical appreciation of foreign cultures and literatures in addition to language skills. Integral to the process is mastery of the foreign language and the use of this mastery in the study of written texts—not only literature but also texts from such fields as philosophy, history, and theology—and of cultural expressions such as art, music, and cinema. All students in the division are encouraged to study languages other than English; foreign language instruction currently offered at Bard includes Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and ancient Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit. Bard maintains a state-of-the-art language facility, the Center for Foreign Languages and Cultures, at the F. W. Olin Language Center, which provides many different ways to explore foreign languages and cultures outside regular language and literature classes.

Many of the languages taught through the Foreign Languages, Cultures, and Literatures Program offer an intensive format that allows students to complete the equivalent of one and a half years of language study within just a few months. Such courses include a one- or two-month summer or winter program in a country where the target language is spoken. After studying abroad, students demonstrate an impressive increase in linguistic capacity. They also gain cultural knowledge, and the exposure to different manifestations of cultural activity makes them aware of the interrelatedness of diverse disciplines.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Heimkehr ohne Einkehr: Der Problematisierte Heimatbegriff bei Dürrenmatt und Schimmelpfennig" Yu Cai '19, Xiamen, China

"Edo in the Manga World: *Appare Jipangu!* and Early Middle Japanese Literature" Parker Christian Cassidy '19, Shavano Park, Texas

"Primo Levi and Franz Fanon: The Seizure of Human Dignity, Reprisal, and Thereafter" Jacob Nessel Cicero '19, Tenafly, New Jersey

"Dragging the Net of Estrangement: Poetics of the Sea in *Elegies of the Mediterranean Sea*" Shiraz Aryan Fazli '19, Brooklyn, New York

"After Translation," a philosophical investigation of the risks and complexities of linguistic meaning manifested in processes of interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation Sofia Koukia '19, Athens, Greece

"Ewig 'schön': Politics and Poetics in the Work and Correspondence of Sarah Kirsch and Helga Novak" Sophia Justine Logan '19, Middlebury, Vermont (Economics; German Studies)

"Saha, Socorro," a collection of autobiographical short stories written in a mixture of English, Spanish, and Italian Gabrielle A. Reyes '19, Los Angeles, California (Italian Studies; Written Arts)

"Petra and Carina," a translation of the contemporary Spanish play by Mar Gómez Glez Amanda Christine Silva '19, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (Spanish Studies; Written Arts)

LITERATURE

The Literature Program embraces its central role in general education at Bard. Following from the Language and Thinking and First-Year Seminar experiences, Literature Program faculty emphasize the integral connection between writing and thinking. Students of literature acquire habits of mind as well as skills of close reading, critical analysis, and written communication that will serve them throughout their lives as citizens and into any career.

The study of literature is grounded in the study of words and syntax: how we make meaning in language and how language makes meaning in us. In studying literature, we not only learn to tolerate ambiguity of meaning but also find meaning in expression as much as in what is being expressed.

The Literature Program is free from the barriers that universities often set up between, for example, different national literatures. Literature's changing forms should encourage the study of a range of intellectual, historical, and imaginative dimensions. Bard students who make the study of literature the central focus of their work explore specific periods (such as medieval or Renaissance Europe), relations among national literatures (in forms such as lyric poetry or the novel), or literature within the context of culture, history, or literary theory. Comparative studies of literature, other arts, and theories of literature are a regular part of course offerings.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Inside the Fault Lines of the Heart: The Poetics of Exile in the Works of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha and Etel Adnan" Shahong Jeanou Billault-Lee '19, San Francisco, California

"Crickets Chirping Hallelujah: Mystery and Everyday Life in the Short Stories of Chekhov and O'Connor" Preston Donald Fulks '19, Wilmette, Illinois

"Dread and the Undead: Old Norse Zombies, Arthurian Adventures, and Horror Movies" Casper Kohan '19, Cape Elizabeth, Maine (concentration: Medieval Studies)

"Breaking the Magic Spell: Teenagers, Suicide, and the Emancipatory Potential of Young Adult Novels" Marcelino Rodriguez '19, Bronx, New York

"Agony and Ajax: Investigation into Divinity in Antiquity" Jane Ellen Vick '19, Santa Rosa, California

"Hansel and Gretel on the Page and Stage: Literary and Operatic Adaptations of Grimms' Fairy Tales" Meilin Wei '19, Shanghai, China (Literature; Percussion Performance [BMus])

WRITTEN ARTS

Bard's Written Arts Program encourages students to experiment with their own writing in a context sensitive to intellectual, historical, and social realities, and the past and current literary landscapes. Writing so pursued then becomes part of a humanist education, in which the private effort of the writer addresses and becomes part of the world's discourse. We expect written arts students also to be passionate readers. The program is staffed exclusively by distinguished writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction who emphasize both innovative, experimental work and work that foregrounds the conventions of writing. Intellectual stress is placed on literary theory and literary history, making students aware of conscious and unconscious influences on their writing, and the reception their work is likely to find in the world.

Students in the Written Arts Program take workshops and tutorials in prose fiction or poetry in addition to completing the same course requirements as literature majors. Writing workshops in genres such as fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and translation are offered every semester at several levels.

RECENT SENIOR PROJECTS

"Inheritance," a collection of stories Natasha Suriaya Ayaz '19, Cambridge, Massachusetts

"How to Hold the Sky" Summer Grace Flemister '19, New York, New York (Human Rights; Written Arts)

"Smoke from the Get Go" Gilad Ross Jaffe '19, New York, New York

"Maidens in Mazes: Johnson, Grimms, d'Aulnoy" Hannah Mary Johnson '19, Alexandria, Virginia (German Studies; Written Arts)

"The Long Gray Coat" Anastasiia Igorevna Malova '19, St. Petersburg, Russia

"red sea, yellow earth," a collection of poems Isabella Clay Martínez '19, Brooklyn, New York (Concentration: Latin American and Iberian Studies)

"The Human Language" Nohan Ariel Meza Martínez '19, Asunción, Paraguay

INTERESTED IN JOURNALISM?

The basis of good journalism is inquisitiveness and knowing how to ask the right questions. The interdisciplinary nature of education at Bard establishes a solid foundation for prospective journalists to open their minds to lines of inquiry beyond the obvious. In addition to offering courses that examine reportage as both written art and historical record, Bard boasts faculty whose journalistic chops are renowned: Ian Buruma, Mark Danner, and Luc Sante, among others.

BARD PAPERS

Bard Papers is an annual arts and literary publication drawing from undergraduate and faculty work. The beautifully printed book, originally an academic journal founded in the '60s, has evolved into a multimedia platform accepting poetry, prose, video, sound, and web-based work. The all-student staff votes on submissions without knowing the identities of the artists, and hundreds of works are featured in an issue, with additional video and sound work presented online.

CONJUNCTIONS

For nearly 40 years, *Conjunctions* has offered a literary space in which authors can write fearlessly and audiences read dangerously. Edited by Bradford Morrow—novelist, Bard Center Fellow, and professor of literature—*Conjunctions* puts out print and e-book issues every May and November, as well as a free online magazine that showcases a single writer each week. Morrow is also host of the Innovative Contemporary Fiction Reading Series, which brings cutting-edge contemporary writers to Bard to meet with undergraduates, discuss their work, and present public readings.

BARD FICTION PRIZE

The Bard Fiction Prize is awarded to a promising emerging writer who receives an appointment as writer in residence at Bard College for one semester, without the expectation that he or she teach traditional courses. The recipient gives at least one public lecture and meets informally with students.

2020 Clare Beams *We Show What We Have Learned*

2019 Greg Jackson *Prodigals*

2018 Carmen Maria Machado *Her Body and Other Parties*

2017 Karan Mahajan *The Association of Small Bombs*

2016 Alexandra Kleeman *You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine*

2015 Laura van den Berg *The Isle of Youth*

2014 Bennett Sims *A Questionable Shape*

2013 Brian Conn *The Fixed Stars*

2012 Benjamin Hale *The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore*

2011 Karen Russell *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*

2010 Samantha Hunt *The Invention of Everything Else*

2009 Fiona Maazel *Last Last Chance*

2008 Salvador Plascencia *The People of Paper*

2007 Peter Orner *The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo*

2006 Edie Meidav *Crawl Space*

2005 Paul La Farge *Hausmann, or the Distinction*

2004 Monique Truong *The Book of Salt*

2003 Emily Barton *The Testament of Yves Gundron*

2002 Nathan Englander *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*

SUSSMAN COLLECTION

The Sussman Rare Book Collection, on the second floor of Bard College's Charles P. Stevenson Library, is a vibrant, anarchic, enthusiastically catholic collection. It includes a copy of the *Liber Chronicarum*, a history of the world, which contains hundreds of hand-tinted woodcut illustrations; a 1792 first edition of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women*; handwritten Persian manuscripts; Ethiopian prayer books; two editions (1556 and 1680) of Magna Carta; a 1634 treatise on the Passion of Christ that has 16 engravings of crucifixes tattooed on human bodies; and a volume on the law of the marriage of eunuchs, spurred by the union of the teenage daughter of a wealthy nobleman to a famous castrato. Among more recent manuscripts is communist lawyer Saul Alinsky's 1946 *Reveille for Radicals*, a 1959 report by the House Un-American Activities Committee on Alinsky, and appellant briefs (ca. 1972) on behalf of antiwar activists David Dellinger and Bobby Seale. The more than 1,200 items, many of which are works in multiple volumes, can be viewed by appointment.

SELECT FACULTY HONORS

Ian Buruma, Paul W. Williams Professor of Human Rights and Journalism, 2008 Shorenstein Journalism Award; **Mark Danner**, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and the Humanities, 1999 MacArthur Fellowship, 2019 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship; **Nuruddin Farah**, Distinguished Professor of Literature, 1998 Neustadt International Prize for Literature; **Elizabeth Frank**, Joseph E. Harry Professor of Modern Languages and Literature, 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for *Louise Bogan: A Portrait* (1985); **Neil Gaiman**, Professor in the Arts, 2009 Newbery and 2010 CILIP Carnegie Medals for *The Graveyard Book*; **Ann Lauterbach**, David and Ruth Schwab Professor of Languages and Literature, 1993 MacArthur Fellowship; **Valeria Luiselli**, Sadie Samuelson Levy Professor in Languages and Literature, 2019 MacArthur Fellowship; **Daniel Mendelsohn**, Charles Ranlett Flint Professor of Humanities, 2000 and 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award, 2005 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship; **Dinaw Mengestu**, Professor of Written Arts and director of the Written Arts Program, 2012 MacArthur Fellowship

SELECT FACULTY BOOKS

Imagining the Chorus in Augustan Poetry, **Lauren Curtis**; *North of Dawn*, **Nuruddin Farah**; *H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds*, **Peter Filkins**; *Art Matters: Because Your Imagination Can Change the World*, **Neil Gaiman**; *Fictitious Capital: Silk, Cotton, and the Rise of the Arabic Novel*, **Elizabeth Holt**; *Seaspel*, **Robert Kelly**; *Spell*, **Ann Lauterbach**; *Lost Children Archive: A Novel*, **Valeria Luiselli**; *In a Dark Wood: What Dante Taught Me about Grief, Healing, and the Mysteries of Love*, **Joseph Luzzi**; *Epic Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones*, **Daniel Mendelsohn**; *The Prague Sonata*, **Bradford Morrow**; *Restless Secularism: Modernism and the Religious Inheritance*, **Matthew Mutter**; *What to Read and Why*, **Francine Prose**; *How to Keep Your Cool: An Ancient Guide to Anger Management (Seneca)*, selected, translated, and introduced by **James Romm**; *The Danger of Romance: Truth, Fantasy, and Arthurian Fictions*, **Karen Sullivan**

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Art from the Sussman Collection: page 1, illustration detail from the *Liber Chronicarum*, attributed to Albrecht Dürer. Page 4, cover detail of *The Yellow Book*, Volume 1, 1894, illustration by Aubrey Beardsley

NOTABLE ALUMNI/AE

Jedediah Berry '99, writer; **László Z. Bitó '60**, writer, scientist; **Jesse Browner '83**, novelist, translator; **Rob Brunner '93**, magazine editor; **Dylan Byers '09**, journalist; **Mary Caponegro '78**, poet, fiction writer; **Allie Cashel '13**, memoirist, activist; **Phyllis Chesler '63**, nonfiction writer, feminist; **Cyrus Console '05**, poet, essayist; **David Côté '92**, drama critic; **Michael Deibert '96**, nonfiction writer; **Emily Dische-Becker '04**, journalist, filmmaker; **Natalia Drozdziak '10**, journalist; **Rikki Ducornet '64**, novelist; **Andrew Durbin '12**, poet, novelist; **Mark Ebner '82**, journalist, nonfiction writer; **J. F. Englert '92**, novelist, poet, journalist; **Ronan Farrow '04**, journalist; **Daphne Gottlieb '90**, poet, author; **Alice Gregory '09**, journalist; **Ken Grimwood '69**, novelist; **Anthony Hecht '44**, poet; **Khalil Jibade Huffman '03**, poet, visual artist; **Pierre Joris '69**, poet, translator; **Katy Kelleher '09**, writer, editor; **J. P. Lawrence '14**, journalist; **Gracie Leavitt '07**, poet, translator; **Charlotte Mandell '90**, translator; **Howard Megdal '07**, sportswriter; **Micaela Morrisette '02**, fiction writer; **Alexis Papahelas '83**, journalist; **Daniel Pinkwater '63**, writer, children's book author; **Tad Richards '61**, poet, novelist; **Thomas Rockwell '56**, children's book author, Shakespeare scholar; **Elizabeth Royte '81**, journalist, nonfiction writer; **Matt Rozsa '06**, political blogger; **Emily Schmall '07**, journalist; **Rachel Sherman '97**, fiction writer; **Juliana Spahr '88**, poet, critic; **Glenn Stout '81**, nonfiction writer, editor; **Matt Taibbi '92**, journalist, nonfiction writer; **Christian TeBordo '99**, fiction writer; **John Yau '72**, poet, publisher

Bard

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