



BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY



PROGRAM  
CONCENTRATION  
AREAS

## Learn more about our program

Our concentration areas feature the courses that unify and animate our constantly evolving studies.

Our program offers four core concentration areas of specialization ranging from classic, modern and postmodern literature to art and culture, language skills, history, politics and society. Through the various courses in our program, you gain the opportunity to pursue your future careers in a variety of areas.

Check the following pages for our concentration areas. Feel free to scan the QR code for further information on courses you will see listed below. You can also contact the members of the department if you have any questions about our program.

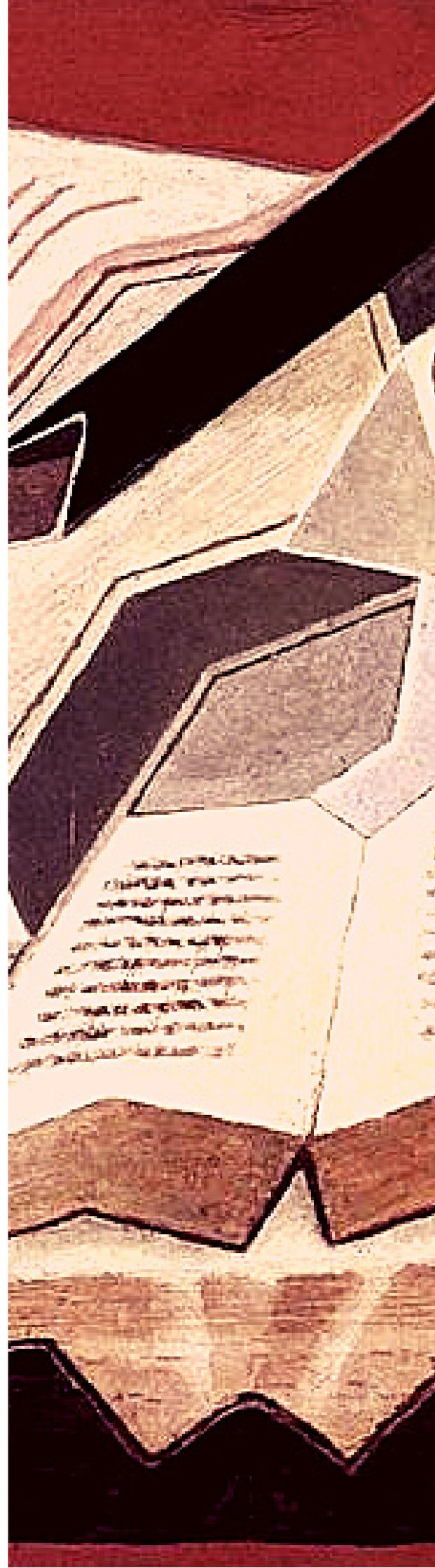


# CLASSIC, MODERN & POSTMODERN LITERATURE

**Would you like to learn how to appreciate literature and discover the creative techniques the writers use to produce literary works that affect us deeply? Then, take a deep breath, dive into the world of the greatest writers and study the inspiring literary traditions throughout America's rich history! Explore the wide range of genres, enjoy the colorful figurative language, observe the narrative techniques and discover a great variety of content and style by engaging with written, digital and visual media! Join literary, intellectual, and philosophical discussions, and find your own distinctive voice by learning how to approach critically to American literature.**

Our literature courses offer you an exciting journey that maps out the fascinating literary lives of many different literary Americas. Get into our department's time machine, fasten your seat belt and start traveling to classical antiquity to learn about the roots of Western culture and literature. After taking a long walk among the literary monuments of Western literature for centuries, stop by the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to read the earliest American literature of the Colonial and Early National Period. Then, take a step into the nineteenth century, celebrate nature and emotions, the individual, and the imagination of the Romantic period, observe the forces of heredity and environment, and the inability to exercise free will in a deterministic universe in the Realist and Naturalist Period. The twentieth century will definitely make you experience a radical break with the past! Hold on tight when you revolt against the past literary traditions and conventions with the Modernists and explore experimental literature. If you think the novels of the Modern Period are not that experimental by today's standards, then try playing with the metafictional writers on the Postmodern textual playground. In the twenty-first century, loosen your seatbelt and get out of the time machine. Take a look around and deepen your understanding of the American literary tradition by absorbing today's creative writings with their fresh new approaches.

We invite our students to discover the wealth of multicultural American literature with us!



## ART & CULTURE

**From what we do in everyday life, to our values, beliefs, traditions, and rituals, a wide range of human activities may be grouped under the umbrella term of culture. Make no mistake! The word culture is claimed to be the second most difficult word to be defined in the English language. Therefore, it does deserve a definition first, to be able to gain recognition later.**

Culture is inseparable from human life. It is in the invisible rules shaping our lives, in the regulations on our daily practices that slip by unnoticed. It is, as a way of life, a production of common thinking and behavior, and a consensus on norms and rules. We, as human beings, obey these rules without even noticing or thinking about them. These embedded norms and rules have the power of bringing people together, of leading their ideologies and rhetoric, or changing the regulations of the governments.

So we start with understanding the power of culture, from the days of Mythology to the present. We acquire the skill of conducting Cultural Studies in theory and practice. We focus on issues of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, ability, identity, and their interactions in various social and cultural contexts. We regard film as an art form but are critical of its power, too, in influencing audiences. We treat all forms of the media equally critically and build an awareness of their ideological force. We observe popular culture, analyze adaptations, and consider all manifestations of culture as worthy of our analysis.

As the author of the ground-breaking novel *Fight Club*, which might also be remembered by its film adaptation by the same name, Chuck Palahniuk claims “[t]he first step – especially for young people with energy and drive and talent, but not money – the first step to controlling your world is to control your culture. To model and demonstrate the kind of world you demand to live in. To write the books. Make the music. Shoot the films. Paint the art.”

With this notion in mind, we invite our students to have a say in controlling the world they live in through the culture courses we offer. By the end, they will not only become proficient in using critical thinking skills but also aware of and active in the cultures in which we are all embedded. .



# LANGUAGE SKILLS

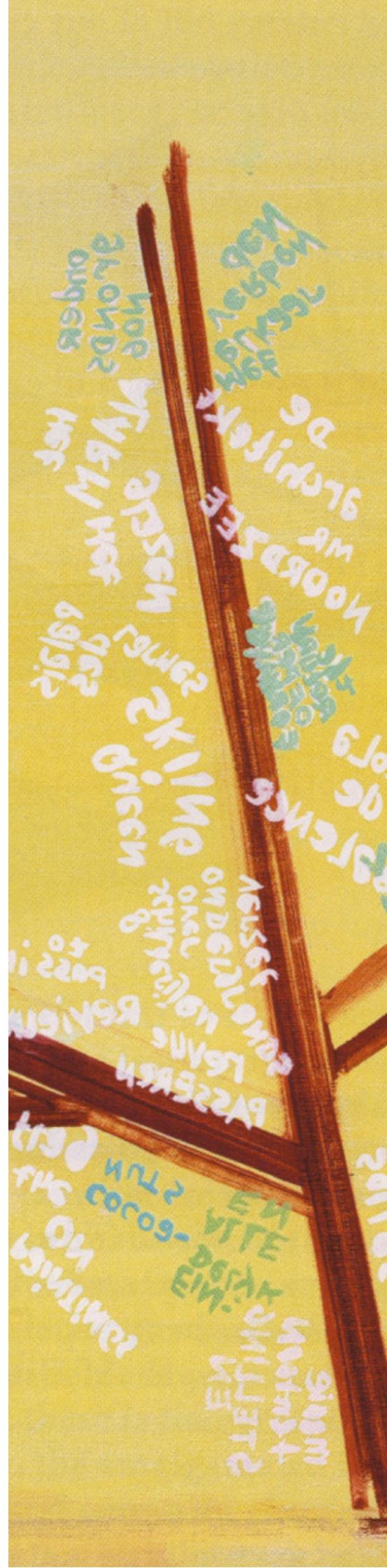
**Are you tired of relying on auto translators that cut the meaning, namely, the “soul” and “spirit” out of the text, or of online grammar checkers that actually worsen the coherency of your essays? Or would you like to know how to give life to a piece of art in many different languages? Would you like to uncover the secrets of hypnotizing speech skills of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. Kennedy? You can become the master of any text or its author by enrolling in our program specifically crafted for brilliant minds who like to play around with language.**

In courses such as Academic Research and Writing and Academic Reading Comprehension, you will learn to develop your critical voice that will embody advanced research and close reading skills. You will gain prowess in identifying between different academic sources that will be blended within your well-organized and original research papers. You will learn to open your critical eye to review your essays and correct typos with academic integrity.

It is a fact that speaking a language does not mean understanding it. So, knowing English is not enough for translating. Translation requires the art of discovering the beauty within one language and rebuilding it in another. But do not fret. Our Basic Translation, Advanced Translation, and Literary Translation courses designed with an intersectional and interdisciplinary lens donate you with the linguistic knowledge to formulate a critical and analytical translation for various fields of study such as medicine, media, communication, culture, history, tourism, journalism, and literature.

With the Speaking and Rhetoric course, you can add dynamism and fluency to your speaking. This course will definitely teach you how to fascinate your audience with improved communication and presentation skills to help you stand out both on academic and non-academic platforms.

Remember, it is only through engaging with every twist and turn of the language that you can begin to master it. Attending language courses will help you use and understand English to the fullest while granting you the skills for a career in the academy, journalism, museums, embassies, editorships, and so much more!



# HISTORY, POLITICS & SOCIETY

**It is a misperception that studying history simply means memorizing the facts of some bygone eras, such as people, events, dates, and places. Indeed, there's more to history! Following history courses is more popular than you may think, with lots of exciting inquiries: How and why things change, who drives these changes, or whose interests are served by them?**

With our American History Survey courses tailored for an interdisciplinary and contemporary context, you will be able to identify and explain significant developments in US history. This means, broadly, the ability to elucidate how the American past and its evolving relationship with the rest of the world shaped the global present. This course, along with our elective courses, such as the History of Turkish–American Relations, and American Politics, will help you to prepare for a graduate career in other disciplines, such as International Relations, History, Area Studies, or Global Studies.

It is a fact that the influence of Western Civilization is global. With the History of the Western Civilizations courses spanning from the dawn of human history to the late twentieth century, you will build knowledge of the Western experience, especially over the past century. Placing critical thought and discussion at the center, this multifaceted course will increase your cultural awareness and moral understanding. Knowledge acquired through the study of Western Civilization means understanding our shared past, which can lead to a rewarding career in our shared future.

Attending the history classes and participating in our many projects not only encourage a deeper understanding of diversity but also can help you to build necessary skills for a career in the academy, NGOs, journalism, tourism, heritage consultancy, museums, and public history projects and the like. Remember, many American Culture and Literature alumni have benefited from history instruction in conjunction with the literary studies at the department, including some of our own faculty members.

# OUR DEPARTMENT

## Himmet Umunç

Professor of English Literature

Professor Umunç received his PhD in 1974 from the University of London (King's College). During the 1985-86 academic year and in 2000 he was a Fulbright research fellow at Harvard University. His research interests include British studies, American studies, representation of Turkey in British and American writings, literary theory and criticism, cultural studies, and comparative literature. He has published in learned journals and presented papers at national and international conferences.

## Defne Tutan

Assistant Professor

Specialized in Cultural Studies, Dr. Tutan has worked extensively on the intersection of postmodern and postcolonial discourses, with a special interest in their impact on the representation of alternative histories. Her more recent research has focused on historical adaptations, history as adaptation and biopics.

## Seda Şen

Assistant Professor

Dr. Şen has specialized in modernist poetry in English and has publications in the fields of urban studies, modern, postmodern, and contemporary poetry, memory, and representation, graphic narratives, literary cartography, geocriticism, digital mapping, and literature. Her recent studies cover explorations of urban landscape, creative remembrance, and theories of poetry and performance studies in American literature.

## Melike Tokay Ünal

Assistant Professor

Dr. Unal has worked on the evolution of American women's foreign missionary movement and their presence in Turkey missions, and on American humanitarianism and philanthropy, Progressive Era, First World War, and the Roosevelt Family. Her research interests include transatlantic cultural and social flows, World War I narratives, American expatriates, social history of medicine and hospitals, American philanthropy, and travel writing.

## Gül Varlı Karaarslan

Research Assistant

Gül Varlı Karaarslan has worked extensively on feminism and drama in her studies. Her main interest includes performance studies and its interaction with gender, race, and equality movements. Her more recent research has focused on life writing, food, and masculinity studies.

## Merve Sarıkaya Şen

Assistant Professor

Merve Sarıkaya Şen is the leader of a research group entitled "Contemporary Perspectives in/on Culture and Literature". She has published extensively on trauma, memory, diaspora studies, transmodernity and feminism. She is the author of five international book chapters and nine academic articles. Her recent research interests include the ethics of care and vulnerability, silence and gendered violence in contemporary narratives written in English.

## Selen Aktari Sevgi

Assistant Professor

Specialized in English literature, Dr. Aktari-Sevgi has worked on postmodern and contemporary American, British and Irish fiction with a focus on women writers. Her main research areas are female gothic, gender studies, memory and trauma studies, and theories of affect.

## Deniz Kırpıklı

Assistant Professor

Dr. Kırpıklı has worked extensively on cultural memory studies and the construction of cultural identities in migrant literature. Her research interests include contemporary fiction, fantasy literature, postcolonial theory, Black Atlantic studies, and memory studies, with a particular focus on transculturalism. Her recent research focuses on mediation and remediation of memory in contemporary English and American fiction.

## Tarık Tansu Yiğit

Assistant Professor

Specialized in History, Dr. Yiğit works on the intersection of cultural and material histories, with a particular emphasis on the nineteenth/early twentieth-century American experience. His recent research focuses on the American Civil War and its transnational dimensions, boundaries of reconciliation, Turkish-American relations, and the crossroads of death and life in the historical narratives.

## Senar Arcak

Research Assistant

Graduated from Bilkent University, Arcak has completed one-year M.A level literary research at the University of Zurich on theory and contemporary fiction. Her other research interests include climate change studies, ecocriticism, planetary memory, science fiction, and contemporary narrative theory.

# CONTACT



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