

The department of Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (CSLC) at Occidental College, Los Angeles, offers a two-year postdoctoral Fellowship, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, for a faculty member whose work engages (either in an exclusive, comparative, or interdisciplinary capacity) with German culture, literature, and language. The recently established CSLC department has adopted an innovative liberal arts approach to the study of the so-called “lesser taught languages,” and we are seeking candidates willing to contribute to the design of a research-intensive undergraduate curriculum that will complement this undertaking. Grounded in a student’s understanding of at least one foreign language, the department seeks to embed traditional language instruction within a larger interdisciplinary and comparative inquiry, one that highlights the role that the formal structures of language and literature play in the constitution of culture. We seek to place as much emphasis, in other words, on interpretation as on communication. At present, the department houses the following languages: German, Russian, Latin, and Ancient Greek. We seek candidates who hold a Ph.D. in German, German Studies, Comparative Literature or any aligned discipline to strengthen, and quite possibly expand, these language and literature offerings.

The CSLC fellow is expected to be an experienced instructor with documented excellence in teaching. The fellow will enhance the College’s core commitment to excellence and equity by actively contributing to an academic program where students of all backgrounds, from the beginnings of their academic careers, can recognize themselves as active researchers and serious participants in scholarly and creative conversations in the arts and humanities.

#### **Specific Fellowship Responsibilities:**

- The principal responsibility of the fellow will be to design and teach four courses per year over a two-year appointment. These will be negotiated with the Department chair, but will include introductory courses, research-focused first-year seminars, and upper division courses in translation with an attached German language reading component.

The terms of the Fellowship require that at least some of the courses designed by the fellow will, in time, draw upon the resources of Los Angeles’s cultural institutions, and incorporate a digital humanities component. To assist the fellow in this task, we shall therefore ask that she or he:

- Participate in Summer Institutes hosted by Occidental’s Center for Digital Liberal Arts to develop course and assignment design.
- Participate in year-round faculty development workshops with other postdoctoral Fellows and faculty at the Center for Community Based Learning, to learn best practices for community based research within the context of the shifting digital scholarly landscape.

These fellowships are intended to serve as developmental positions, allowing fellows to prepare for a future career in academia as they are developing their pedagogy and sharing their expertise with the Occidental community. Fellows will continue to keep up with disciplinary research and professionalization, and will receive a modest budget for professional travel. The fellow will also be

supported by a departmental faculty mentor, a cohort of postdoctoral fellows, the Center for Digital Liberal Arts, Center for Community Based Learning, and the Academic Commons.

## **Occidental College**

Occidental College is in Eagle Rock, a neighborhood in the northeastern corner of the City of Los Angeles. The College offers a unique combination of a rigorous academic program, small size, a diverse student body, and all the resources of Los Angeles. An interdisciplinary, hands-on approach to the liberal arts takes place in a close-knit community of excellent teacher-scholars and involved students that focus on creativity, academic accomplishment, and civic engagement.

Occidental's location in a world city on the Pacific Ocean and near the mountains and deserts of Southern California offers ready access to the broadest array of activities and proximity to internationally important libraries and museums, not the least of which are the Getty Center, the Huntington Library, the University of California Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, Caltech, and the Claremont Colleges. Institutions that may be of more specific interest to German culture and literature scholars would include the Wende Museum, the Villa Aurora, and the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

## **Salary and Benefits**

The Fellow will be considered a faculty (9-month) employee of Occidental College with an annual salary of \$55,000 plus the standard benefits and leave accrued by employees.

## **Application Requirements**

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest, which should address

- the fellow's scholarly and teaching experience with German literature, and language, with thoughts about the kinds of courses she or he might introduce into the CSLC curriculum, and the appeal such courses might hold for students at both the lower and upper division levels
- any additional scholarly and teaching background that might could further the aims of our department
- A current CV
- Three confidential letters of recommendation

Though it is not a requirement, the applicant might additionally describe ways in which her or his work might engage with the chosen theme for the Occidental first-year seminars of 2016-2017, "The Metropolis," especially as it pertains to matters of literature, language, and culture (the question for example of the modern metropolis as a globalized--or "mondialized"--space; as a site of "constitutive self-displacement" inviting constant cultural, linguistic, and literary re-negotiation; and so forth). The

applicant is further invited to include any previous experience in the fields of undergraduate research pedagogy, the digital humanities or community based learning.

**Application Deadline:** Application review will begin in mid-January and will continue until the position is filled. For full consideration, please submit your materials by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Electronic submissions are preferred, and we understand if letters of support arrive after letters of interest. We are especially interested in candidates who will have a degree in hand and can start by the Summer of 2016. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis but preference will be given to those who submit their application by February 15th.

For Submissions and More Information Contact: Romy Corona, at [rcorona@oxy.edu](mailto:rcorona@oxy.edu), (323) 259-2769.