

CMLT-C 501 (2102) Intro to Contemporary Literary Studies: Comparative Literature and the Questioning of Borders: Rethinking the World, Universalism, and Multiplicity | E. Peretz | M 5:45-8:15

One of the most pressing questions of our time is the need to rethink the concept of the world and of what it can mean for us today to live in a world, rather than exclusively within the borders of a specific nation, language, or religion. A major contribution of some of the most advanced theoretical developments of the last fifty years, this course will argue, is to allow us to develop such a rethinking of the concept of a world, thus, of that which is *shared and communicated* across humanity *in excess of every delimiting border*. This new thinking of a dimension, the dimension of the world, communicating in excess of every border, should be distinguished, we will argue, from several previous models of thinking: It should be distinguished from the dream of a cosmopolitanism, of a *unification* of humanity through the cancellation of the borders and languages separating it, as well as from the dream of finding the ultimate ideal of truth, value, and meaning in which all of humanity can share (enlightenment humanism). It should also be distinguished from the conception of the world as consisting of a relativistic plurality of separate and autonomous cultures, each having its own ideals and values which cannot be judged by another. If there is a dimension of humanity which communicates across borders, it will not mean the cancellation of borders but a new thinking of the logic of the border, a thinking which will also have to invent a new logic of the universal. If there is an essential thinking of multiplicity in this new logic, it will not be the thinking of a relativistic plurality of separate and complete entities, but of an *essential multiplicity* of fragmented and incomplete entities exposed to each other. It is the task of comparative literature, we will argue, to become the discipline activating this new thinking of the borders and of the discovery of a new notion of the world, and it will be the task of this class to elaborate this new way of thinking by creating a framework through which to think together several of the essential theoretical contributions of our time.

Comp Lit graduate students must also enroll in C502.

CMLT-C 502 (2103) Fields and Methods of Comparative Lit

E. Peretz | W 5:45-6:35

See above description

CMLT-C 521 (27537) Ancient Greek and Roman Literature: Foucault's Virginity | K. Tsai | TR 1:00-2:15



This is not a stereotypical survey of the tired old Greats. Rather, this course proposes to examine the ancient novel, a genre that has been neglected by many literary historians for whom fiction is a certain mark of modernity. Our first task in understanding this orphan is to survey the wide range of Greek and Roman works it draws from, including the *Odyssey*, Hesiod, Sappho, Herodotus, Plato's *Symposium*, Euripides' *Hippolytus*, Thucydides, Theocritus, Menander, Ovid and other epicists, and, above all, the sophists and the rhetoricians. Our second task is to tackle the erotic fiction of

Chariton, Longus, Heliodorus, and Petronius. These works will enable us to challenge and complicate Foucault's influential *History of Sexuality*, which neglects such "unreliable" fictional sources for prescriptive, non-literary sources. The course concludes by contextualizing the ancient novel (1) in the development of early world fiction, and (2) in relation to theories of the (modern) novel. All readings are available in translation. Students in comparative literature may fulfill requirements in Greek and/or Latin by reading a substantial amount in the original language(s). This course satisfies the pre-modern requirement for CMLT graduate students.

CMLT-C 538 (11760) The Twentieth Century II: Afro-Cosmopolitanism A. Adesokan | MW 4:00-5:15

This is a seminar on the intellectual relationships between the African continent and the progressive world in the second half of the 20th century, focusing upon three related historical and aesthetic formations: the recovery of African agency in the pre-1945 collaborations between nationalists and diasporic and liberal intellectuals and activists; the rise of tricontinental liberation movements and anti-colonial artistic cultures (cinema, literature, music) for which the journal *Presence Africaine* and the Cuban revolution were catalysts; and the unfolding reassessments of postcolonial political culture in the aftermath of Soviet communism and *apartheid* regime. The course works with the premise that these formations are unavoidably internationalist, given that the leading figures are diasporic intellectuals dealing with issues of race and class in multiple contexts. Readings will be organized around the decisive role of the African continent in the structural relations between contemporary discourses of cosmopolitanism and the global migrations of the late-19th century. Authors may include Abrahams, Césaire, Conde, Derrida, Du Bois, Edwards, Fanon, Guevara, James, Pasolini, Soyinka, and Wright.



CMLT-C 580 (27538) The History and Theory of Translation

P. Losensky | MW 11:15-12:30

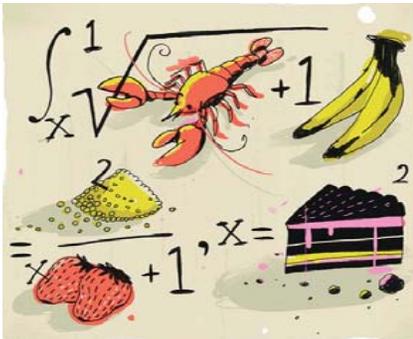
This seminar will explore the burgeoning field of translation studies and the central role of translation in the field of comparative literature. A survey of the history of translation, with emphasis on the English tradition, will provide the background for an in-depth examination of modern developments in translation theory. Concepts such as translatability, dynamic equivalence, naturalization, and reception will be analyzed in relation with various models of language, social communication, and poetics. Participants in this seminar will be expected to play an active role in presenting theoretical readings to class and leading discussions of the material. Our discussions of theory will be complemented by the presentation, critique, and preparation of actual translations. Each participant will be asked to research the translation history of a key work or genre from one foreign literature into English and to consider the implications of

theoretical models through short translation projects. Required texts: *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, second edition (New York, 2004); *The Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation*, edited by Peter France (Oxford, 2000); and a volume of the Penguin series *Poets in Translation* to be determined. These texts will be supplemented by other selected readings available in electronic format.

CMLT-C 581 (2106) Workshop in Literary Translation
B. Johnston | MW 2:30-3:45

This workshop will focus on practical issues of literary translation. We will consider the problems of translating poetry, prose, drama, and other genres. Class time will be devoted to the analysis of existing translations, workshops on translation issues, and to work on our own translations. A strong emphasis will be placed on professional aspects of literary translation such as publication and representation. Evaluation will be by a series of practical assignments revolving around short translation projects in different genres. A wide range of languages will be represented in class, though we will always be translating into English. You will need a thorough knowledge of English and at least one other language. No prior experience of literary translation is required.

CMLT-C649 (27539) Literary Studies and the Natural Sciences: Kitchen Science to Molecular Gastronomy | V. Halloran
TR 2:30-3:45



In this class, we will read texts which explain the science of food and cooking with some literary flair. Beginning with Brillat Savarin's *The Physiology of Taste* and covering topics such as the molecular structure of various types of food, the locavore movement, food-borne illnesses and molecular gastronomy, we will explore several genres of scientific writing about food that combine elegant prose, exquisite description, and frequent meditations upon the nourishing aspects of food and

literature to both the soul and the mind. Among the authors whose works we will read are This Hervé, Oliver Sacks, Russ Parsons, Barbara Kingsolver, Elizabeth Gilbert, Gary Paul Nabhan, and Michael Pollan.

Comparative Literature Graduate Courses Fall 2009



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The comparative study of literature is concerned with the relationships between literature and other arts and fields of knowledge. Its emphasis has traditionally been on the systematic comparison of literary works from more than one culture. This comparison may be made in the framework of a literary genre, a period in literary history, or dominant themes and motifs; or it can be undertaken in the context of the mutual impact of two national cultures or entire civilizations. In recent years, comparative literature has been increasingly concerned with theoretical approaches to literature and with exploring relationships between literature and such areas as music, the visual arts, film, philosophy, religion, political thought, and the natural and social sciences. In essence, the mission of the Department of Comparative Literature at I.U. is to be on the cutting edge of international interdisciplinary studies in literature and related arts.