

Fundamentals of Comparative literature 2 (CL 9502)

Mondays @ 5:30

Instructor:

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Office hours: W 10:00-1:00

Course requirements

Class participation	30%
Class presentation /mid-term paper	20%
Final essay (due Apr. 27)	50%

Class participation includes both your presence and class activity. You are expected to do all the readings for each class; in turn, expect to be asked precise questions regarding the readings. You will be asked to deliver 1-2 books/articles reviews.

Class presentations: in consultation with the instructor, you will pick an oral presentation topic. The delivery should take 20-30 minutes. You need not submit written versions of the presentations.

or

Mid-term paper: c. 5 pages (MLA style). Originality and brilliance are sought – due by March 2nd, 2015

The final essay should have around 20 double-spaced pages (MLA style). Both originality and solid research are encouraged. For topics, please consult with the instructor in advance. Do your utmost to avoid incompletes.

Sessions

1. January 5 **Introductory;** hand outs; biblio, syllabus
Intro to close reading and rhetoric; Baudelaire and modernity; correspondence and comparison

2. January 12 **Comparative Literature as a Field**

Wlad Godzich, 'Emergent Literatures and the Field of Comparative Literature.' In *The Comparative Perspective on Literature: Approaches to Theory and Practice*, edited by Clayton Koelb and Susan Noakes. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988: 18-36; or in Godzich, *The Culture of Literacy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994: 274-92

Stanley Corngold. 'The Natural Enemy of Comparative Literature is Translation,' *Literary Research/Recherche littéraire* 17.33 (Spring-Summer, 2000): 22-28

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/201/300/literary_research-ef/n28-n36/old33/ForumCorngold.htm

or

___, "Comparative Literature: The Delay in Translation." *Nation, Language and the Ethics of*

Translation. Sandra Bermann & Michael Wood, eds. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2005: 139-45

Claudio Guillén, *The Challenge of Comparative Literature*: 'Romantic Ideals,' 24-32; 'The Compromises of Positivism,' 33-6; 'Weltliteratur,' 37-45

3. January 19 Origins, History, Genealogy

Genesis 1-11

Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History." *Illuminations*: 253-264

Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History." *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*. Ed. D.F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1977: 139-64

4. January 26 Complit and Myth

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*, intro & chs. 1 & 2 (pp. 8-114)

Claude Lévi-Strauss, Bororo myths in *The Raw and the Cooked*, 99-101; 151-3; 168-70

Hans Blumenberg, *Work on Myth*, ch. 1 (pp. 3-33)

optional: Roberto Calasso, *Literature and the Gods*. 2001. Tr. Tim Parks. New York: Knopf, 2001

5. February 2 Complit and Storytelling

Walter Benjamin, "The Storyteller." *Illuminations*: 80-101

Walter Ong, *Orality and Literacy*, ch. 6 (pp. 136-52)

Italo Calvino, *Italian Folktales* (tales 1-11; pp. 3-36)

6. February 9 Complit and Painting

Balzac, "The Unknown Masterpiece"

Georges Didi-Huberman, *Confronting Images*: Appendix: The Detail and the Pan (pp. 229-71)

Slide show (El Greco, Poussin, Velázquez...)

7. February 23 Complit and Photography

Julio Cortázar, "Blow Up"

Barthes, *Camera Lucida*

Eduardo Cadava, *Words of Light*

Slide show (early photography, Man Ray, contemporary photography)

8. March 2 Complit and Film

"The Usual Suspects" (dir. & script Brian Singer; USA, 1995)

Christian Metz, *Psychoanalysis and Film*. *The Imaginary Signifier*, chs. 1-3

9. March 9 The Translatable (epic)

Homer, *Odyssey*, bks. 9-12

Virgil, *The Aeneid* (Mandelbaum translation; bks. 1-6)

Dante, *Inferno*, 1-5

10. March 16 The Hardly Translatable (lyric)

Baudelaire, "Les Chats"; Browning, "Dramatic monologues", Garcilaso de la Vega, "Sonnet 1,"

- Wallace Stevens, "The Emperor of Ice cream"
 Roman Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics." In *Language in Literature*. Ed. Krystyna Pomorska and Stephen Rudy. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1987
 Paul de Man, "Semiology and Rhetoric," CT 905-16
- Optional: Baudelaire, *Salon of 1859*: 1-4 (significant fragments: "The Queen of the Faculties," "The Rule of Imagination"
 Martin Heidegger, "Hölderlin and the Essence of Poetry," CT 560-70
- 12. March 23 The Untranslatable (sublime)**
 Poems by Emily Dickinson, Anna Akhmatova and Wisława Szymborska
 Pseudo Longinus, *On the Sublime*
 Kant, *Critique of Judgment*. Trans. Pluhar, 1987: 35-8; §§ 28-9, pp. 119-40; § 59, pp. 225-30
- Optional: *Critique of Judgment*, Part 1 §§ 1-2, pp. 44-6; § 17, pp. 79-84; pp. 91-5; Part 2 §§ 23-4, pp. 97-101; § 25, pp. 103-6;
- 13. March 30 The Repeatable**
 Ghérasim Luca, "Passionnement"
 Heinrich von Kleist, "The Marionette Theatre"
 Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play..." *Writing and Difference*, 251-70
 Gilles Deleuze, "He Stuttered." *Essays Critical and Clinical*, 107-114
- 14. April 6 Dramas of Dialogue**
 Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
 Gilles Deleuze, "The Exhausted." *Essays Critical and Clinical*, 152-74
 Michael Holquist, "Existence as Dialogue" & "Language as Dialogue." *Dialogism. Bakhtin and His World*, 13-37

Final papers due on April 27th

Graduate Course Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.