COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 255
COLLOQUIUM

Winter 2014, UC Davis

Monday 2:10-4:00 pm, Olson 109

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Course Description

Course Expectation
Steady attendance and participation in class discussion. Read assigned materials for each week on time. One presentation/book report. Circulate, read, and critique fellow classmates’ papers (potential conference papers/publishable papers) toward the end of the course.

Required Texts

Recommended
The latest edition of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers
SYLLABUS

January 6
Introduction. The Ideas of Comparative Literature and World Literature
- “Present Tasks of Comparative Literature” (1877), Hugo Meltzl, Princeton Sourcebook, pp. 41-49.

January 13
Masters and Masterpieces of European Comparative Literary Studies
- From Epic and Novel (1941), Mikhail Bakhtin, Princeton Sourcebook, pp. 104-119.
- Chapter 1, “Odysseus’ Scar;” Chapter 2, “Fortunata,” Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature, Erich Auerbach

January 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no class

January 27
Comparative Literature, Historicism, East-West Comparative Poetics
- “Preface to European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages” (1948), Ernst Robert Curtius, Princeton Sourcebook, pp. 120-124.
- “Rectifying the Terms, I: ‘Narrative,’ ‘History,’ and ‘Fiction’ in the West” (1994), Sheldon H. Lu, handout.

The Perpetual Crises of Comparative Literature; the Impact of Theory on Comparative Literature
- “Writing” (1990), Barbara Johnson, Princeton Sourcebook, pp. 227-239.
February 10
The Institution and Discipline of Comparative Literature
Three Reports to the American Comparative Literature Association:


February 17
Presidents’ Day, no class

February 24
Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Areas Studies

- “In the Name of Comparative Literature,” Rey Chow, in Charles Bernheimer, 107-116.

March 3
Re-Orientations: World Literature and Globalization

- “Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism,” Fredric Jameson, Social Text 15 (Fall 1986), available online

March 10
Continuities and New Directions

- “Conjectures on World Literature,” Franco Moretti, New Left Review 1 (Jan-Feb. 2000), available online

March 17
Practical Matters of the Profession
How to write a conference paper or a publishable paper;
Circulate, read, and critique fellow classmates’ draft papers;
The MLA Handbook; MLA Handbook Style vs. Chicago Manual Style
Professionalization and networking:
Journals, associations, institutions, conferences, job lists.

Select Bibliography
(Pick one to write a book report; a relevant book outside this list is OK too)
