

# COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 255 COLLOQUIUM

Winter 2014, UC Davis

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

## **Professor Sheldon Lu**

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## **Course Description**

History, theory, and methodology of comparative literature. Issues of national literature, world literature, and comparative literature. Relation between comparative literature and other disciplines and mediums. Oral presentation; critique of research papers; discussion of current problems in teaching and research in comparative literature. Required for all entering comparative literature students.

## **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**

- David Damrosch, Natalie Melas, Mbongiseni Buthelezi, eds. *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature: From the European Enlightenment to the Global Present*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Charles Bernheimer, ed. *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1995.
- Erich Auerbach. *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Trans. Willard Trask. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1953.

## **Recommended**

The latest edition of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

# SYLLABUS

## January 6

### Introduction. The Ideas of Comparative Literature and World Literature

- “Conversations on World Literature” (1827), J. W. von Goethe and J. P. Eckermann, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 17-25.
- “Present Tasks of Comparative Literature” (1877), Hugo Meltzl, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 41-49.
- “Preface to *La Littérature comparée*” (1951), Jean-Marie Carré, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 158-160.

## January 13

### Masters and Masterpieces of European Comparative Literary Studies

- “The Epic and the Novel” (1916), Georg Lukács, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 81-91.
- 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.
- “On the Genesis and Development of Literary Systems, Part I,” Earl Miner, *Critical Inquiry* 5 (1978-79): 339-53; “Part II,” 553-68. Available online.
- “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

- “The Crisis of Comparative Literature” (1959), René Wellek, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 161-172.
- “The Structuralist Activity” (1963), Roland Barthes, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 175-182.
- “Semiology and Rhetoric” (1973), Paul de Man, *Princeton Sourcebook*, 208-226.
- “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:

- “The Levin Report, 1965: Report on Professional Standards”
- “The Greene Report, 1975: A Report on Standards”
- “The Bernheimer Report, 1993: Comparative Literature at the Turn of the Century.” All in Charles Bernheimer, pp. 21-48.
- “Introduction: The Anxieties of Comparison,” Charles Bernheimer, in Charles Bernheimer, pp. 1-17.

## **February 17**

**Presidents’ Day, no class**

## **February 24**

### **Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Areas Studies**

- “*Geist* Stories,” K. Anthony Appiah, in Charles Bernheimer, pp. 51-57.
- “Comparative Literature and Global Citizenship,” Mary Louise Pratt, in Charles Bernheimer, pp. 58-65.
- “On the Complementarity of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies,” Michael Riffaterre, in Charles Bernheimer, pp. 66-73.
- “In the Name of Comparative Literature,” Rey Chow, in Charles Bernheimer, 107-116.

## **March 3**

### **Re-Orientations: World Literature and Globalization**

- “The World, the Text, and the Critic” (1983), Edward W. Said, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 259-283.
- “Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism,” Fredric Jameson, *Social Text* 15 (Fall 1986), available online
- “Crossing Borders” (2003), Gayatri C. Spivak, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 380-398.
- “The *Tao* and the *Logos*: Notes on Derrida’s Critique of Logocentrism,” Longxi Zhang, *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 11, no. 3 (March 1985): 385-398. Available online.

## **March 10**

### **Continuities and New Directions**

- “Literature, Nation, and Politics” (1999), Pascale Casanova, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 329-340.
- “Conjectures on World Literature,” Franco Moretti, *New Left Review* 1 (Jan-Feb. 2000), available online

- “Evolution, World-Systems, *Weltliteratur*” (2006), Franco Moretti, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 399-408.
- “A New Comparative Literature” (2006), Emily Apter, *Princeton Sourcebook*, pp. 409-419.

## 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)**

- Aldridge, Owen, ed. *Comparative Literature: Matter and Method*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1964.
- Apter, Emily. *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*. Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Bassnett, Susan. *Comparative Literature: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford, UK/Cambridge, USA: Blackwell, 1993.
- Casanova, Pascale. *The World Republic of Letters*. Trans. M. B. Debevoise. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Damrosch, David. *What is World Literature?* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- Jost, François. *Introduction to Comparative Literature*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1974.
- Guillén, Claudio. *The Challenge of Comparative Literature*. Trans. Cola Franzen. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Levin, Harry. *Grounds for Comparison*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1972.
- Miner, Earl. *Comparative Poetics: An Intercultural Essay on Theories of Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.
- Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage, 1994.
- Saussy, Haun, ed. *Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.
- Spivak, Gayatri. *Death of A Discipline*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.
- Stallknecht, Newton, and Horst Frenz, eds. *Comparative Literature: Method and Perspective*. Revised edition. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1971.

- Wellek, René, and Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1956.
- Zhang Longxi. *The Tao and the Logos: Literary Hermeneutics, East and West*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1992.
- Zhang Longxi. *Allegoresis: Reading Canonical Literature East and West*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.