Cultural Studies
&
Comparative Literature Department

Cultural Studies Core
&
Graduate Certificate

Elective Courses

Fall 2017
CUTURAL STUDIES CORE COURSES

CST 502.01
Theories of Cultural Studies
“Writing Essays/Thinking Novels Today”
Patrice Nganang

This class is both about writing and reading. It is about the theories of novelists, and the practice of essay writing. The principle is to see in what way the practice of essay writing by novelists, can inform our own writing as scholars of literature and analysts of culture. The class will therefore have two parts – a theoretical part during which we will read essays written by novelists, or by scholars about novels; and a practical part during which we will write and present our own print-ready essays. Our own writing will be informed by the reading done in class, and if possible, by some on-site visits in institutions, like jails, film archives, labs, etc. The theoretical part of our class will be informed by texts written by writers like David Foster Wallace, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Arundhati Roy, Orhan Pamuk, Chimamanda Adichie, among others.

Wednesdays 4:00-6:50pm Humanities 1051

CST 609.S01
Advanced Topics in Comparative Literature
“Common Grounds & the Cleave”
Robert Harvey

Michel Foucault inspired generations of critical thinkers when he forged the notion of “heterotopia.” Like utopias, heterotopias are at a remove – but only spatially, not temporally. Unlike utopias, heterotopias “claw and gnaw at us,” for they are of our world. Concentration camps, cemeteries, and slums are names for some of these “spaces otherwise” as Foucault was prone to put it. Unable to ignore them, what are we to make of these rebarbative spaces?

While some of the metaphysical and epistemological implications of heterotopias are now evident, their ethical repercussions have been largely neglected. Our readings for the seminar address these consequences and suggest new paths across an important field still very much alive in the humanities. Historical, photographic, and literary examples of “spaces otherwise” should work to reveal that when two or more people imagine them, their endeavor to do so in common can foster ethical relationships of an especially insightful and impactful sort.

Our reading list will include Michel Foucault, Marguerite Duras, Giorgio Agamben, Georges Didi-Huberman, René Char, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Blaise Pascal, Étienne Balibar, Immanuel Kant, and Martin Heidegger. Films by Georges Lacombe and Alain Resnais. Photographs by Eugène Atget.

Tuesdays 4:00-6:50pm Humanities 1051
This course aims to explore from both a practical and theoretical point of view the articulation of research in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature. Approaches to the writing of dissertation prospectuses, paper abstracts, journal articles, grants and fellowship proposals, and presentations for professional conferences are presented, analyzed, and put into practice.

In addition to readings on issues, debates, and problems within the profession and field of Cultural Studies students will develop research for publication while engaging with practices of professionalization.

Monday 4:00-6:50 PM Humanities 1051

CULTURAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

EGL 620
Literary Studies Research:
“The Art of Scholarly Writing”
Michael Rubenstein

The goal of this class is for students to produce a dissertation chapter. That goal is facilitated by two main activities. Firstly we’ll read the most critically acclaimed and accomplished books to be published both in one’s restricted field and in the field of literary criticism generally, with an eye to understanding what makes them good, how they were written, and what aspects of their method might be applied to one’s own work. Secondly, we will conduct a writing workshop with regular deadlines for submitting work and getting feedback from one’s group and from the instructor. Additionally, we will spend some time thinking about how you might shape your work so that it works for you on the academic job market.

Wednesday 2:30-5:20 PM Humanities 2094

HIS 564
Filed seminar on China
Iona Man-Cheong

This course provides an advanced introduction to the history and historiography of China from the early modern period to the present. We cover major works on key themes: imperialism, economic development, revolution, socialism, and the reform era.

Readings also include recent historiographical trends in globalism and China, new Qing history, the Cambridge School, Republican China revisionism, and assessments of the Cultural Revolution. In addition, we examine examples of Chinese primary sources (translated from the Chinese). This course is not a comprehensive survey of China, but prior knowledge of Chinese history is not expected. The course is designed with PhD and MA students in mind with written assignments including analytical and historiographical research papers for PhD and MA students. All students will make presentations and take turns organizing and leading discussions.

Thursday 5:30 – 8:30 pm Social & Behavioral Sciences Bldg N-303
This course will focus on the films and careers of three of the most provocative and influential Hispanic directors of the last 90 years, Luis Buñuel, Arturo Ripstein and Pedro Almodóvar. In analyzing each of their distinctive film universes, we will also consider a series of shared concerns: their participation in a model of hybrid, transnational cinema; their pursuit of socially and sexually transgressive themes; and their creative if conflictive relation to various traditions of both Hispanic and wider global cultures.

The course will be conducted in Spanish but all films will have English subtitles and the readings will be available in English.

Thursday 2:30-5:30 PM Melville Lib. N 3060