Cultural Studies

&

Comparative Literature

Graduate Courses

Spring 2017
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE COURSES

**CLT 501.S01**

Theories of Comparative Literature

Timothy August

This course provides a survey of literary theory and its role in the formation of comparative literature as a discipline. Our objectives in this seminar will be twofold. The first part of the course will focus on the history of comparative literature and foundational texts in the field. The second part will address four major axes of critical debate facing comparative literature in the present moment: 1) Methods of comparison and translation, 2) Studies of the global, postcolonial, and non-western, 3) The cultural turn and the changing status of the “literary,” and 4) The place of comparative literature within institutional spaces and disciplinary systems.

The main agenda of the course will be to familiarize ourselves with the key methodological approaches of comparative literature, gaining the conceptual tools necessary to effectively research, teach, and write in the field. Readings will include selections from: Apter, Auerbach, Bakhtin, Barthes, Benjamin, Casanova, Chasles, Chow, Damrosch, Eagleton, Glissant, Goethe, Jameson, Kristeva, Lazarus, Lukács, Moretti, Ngũgĩ, Posnett, Said, Saussy, Wellek, Zhou & Tong.

Mondays 1:00-3:50pm Humanities 1051

**CLT 609.S01**

Advanced Topics in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

“Utopia/Dystopia”

Nikolaos Panou

This course will focus on the utopian impulse, and its opposite, in early modern and modern literature. Where do such impulses stem from, what is at stake in acting on them, and what are their methodological, aesthetic, and ideological implications? What triggered the transition from the pre-modern obsession with utopian perfection to the modern predilection for dystopian chaos? Do utopian visions represent programmatic attempts to escape the contingency of history or are they embedded with targeted criticism of contemporary deficiencies? Are dystopian nightmares tokens of radical disillusionment, pessimistic warnings about future perils, or vehement rejections of idealized versions of human society? In what ways do they incorporate and address a wide range of issues and fields of experience, from politics, economy, religion, morality, freedom, agency, community, justice and law to time, space, nature, culture, technology, progress, race, gender, and sexuality? Are utopian and dystopian projects so different after all? If yes, how? If no, why? Questions are legion, but we will have a semester at our disposal as well as a number of key texts that will provide answers to as many of them as possible.

Tuesdays 1:00-3:50pm Humanities 1051
CULTURAL STUDIES COURSES

CST 510
History of Cultural Studies
Jacob Gaboury

This course introduces students to the field of cultural studies through an exploration of two distinct yet related questions: where did cultural studies come from, and what has it made possible? As such, we will set out to trace the history of the field and to map the debates, practices, and theories that have informed the political and intellectual project of cultural studies. The goals of the course are twofold: 1) to familiarize students with the texts, thinkers, and traditions that have shaped the ways in which scholars approach the study of culture today; 2) to invite students to reflect critically on their own work and to situate themselves within the larger field. Rather than attempting to answer the question that will inevitably haunt the syllabus – “What is cultural studies?” – we will shift our attention toward the theoretical and disciplinary stakes of raising such a question.

Wednesdays 4:00-6:50pm Humanities 1051

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Tuesdays 1:00-3:50pm Humanities 1051
Courses in Philosophy, Hispanic Languages and Literature, Music, and English often qualify as M.A. and Ph.D electives. Check with the Director of Graduate Studies once you have a description of a particular course. Please also refer to our Cultural Studies Elective brochure.

**Independent Study Courses**

- **CLT/CST 597**: Directed Readings, M.A.
- **CLT/CST/WST 599**: Independent Study
- **CLT/CST/WST 690**: Directed Readings
- **CLT/CST 696**: Self-Directed Readings
- **CLT/CST 699**: Dissertation Research: Ph.D. Candidacy
- **CLT/CST 700**: Dissertation Research: Off-Campus – Domestic Student
- **CLT/CST 701**: Dissertation Research: Off-Campus – International Student
- **CLT/CST 800**: Summer Research
- **CLT/CST 850**: Summer Teaching