Cultural Studies

&

Comparative Literature

Graduate Courses

Spring 2018
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE COURSES

CLT 609.01
THEORIES OF POSTCOLONIALISM, DECOLONIZATION AND DIASPORA
EK Tan

This seminar reviews how conditions of postcolonialism, processes of decolonization, and narratives of diaspora have been theorized for the past three decades. Beginning with a survey of foundational texts in postcolonial studies—by leading scholars such as Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, and Homi Bhabha—we will reflect on how this field has evolved. For example: Has the field been subsumed under newer academic trends of globalization, transnationalism and neo-liberalism? If postcolonial studies has transformed over the past decade, what are some of its recent mutations? We will investigate current deliberations on the field beyond South Asia and Africa, incorporating theorizations of diaspora and (post)colonialism from regions such as Asia and Latin America. For example: How does Kuan-hsing Chen’s “Asia as Method” help us reconsider the various incomplete decolonization projects across the globe? How does Walter Mignolo propose to rethink power and knowledge production by remapping the world? Over the semester, this seminar will trace the disciplinary shifts and ongoing epistemological evolution of the field, paying special attention to issues of decolonization, nation-building, diaspora, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. Weekly readings will include theoretical texts paired with a literary or cultural text.

Tuesdays 4:00-6:50pm Humanities 1051

CULTURAL STUDIES COURSES

CST 502
Theories of Cultural Studies: On Political Power and the Im/Possibility of Dialogue
Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood

This course examines some of the foundational concepts in cultural studies, and traces the development of select strands within this multi-disciplinary field. Starting with the assumption that cultural studies is an established academic discipline that encompasses a broad range of inquiries into the relations of culture and power, we will look at Marxist theory and in particular at Gramsci’s theory of hegemony as having provided a common denominator for much of the scholarship that forms the core of cultural studies. Bearing in mind that the production of knowledge in cultural studies veers close to a political practice, we will consider the theory produced by Russian Formalism, the Frankfurt school, as well as select theoretical contributions to postcolonial theory as examples and major milestones in the development of the field. While cultural studies explore forms of power that are omnipresent and diverse (they may include such vectors as ideology, race, social class, gender, and natural environment), we will also consider theoretical interventions representing a dialogical approach to the interpretation of cultural phenomena. In addition to familiarizing students with some of the key texts that have shaped the ways in which scholars have approached the study of culture, the course invites its participants to reflect critically on their own work and to situate themselves within the field of cultural studies.

Mondays 1:00-3:50pm Humanities 1051
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Also of Interest

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 598 Thesis Research
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