

Course description

Descriptif du cours

Department : English

Instructor (s): Pr. Ben Salem

Academic year: 2021-2022

Level: Masters II

Course title: Comparative Literature : Theory and Methods (Option)

Course outline:

Week 1-2: Comparative literature tools and methods of analysis: Introduction

-Designing a framework: why compare?

Chapter 1, "A New Comparative Literature as Theory and Method", *Comparative Literature: Theory, Method, Application*, Steven Totosy de Zepetnek

Claudio Guillen, "The Emergence of Comparative Literature". *The Challenge of Comparative Literature*.

Week 3-4-5: Comparative Literature and World Literature

franco Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature".

Dorothy M. Figueira. "Comparative Literature versus World Literature". *The Comparatist*, Volume 34, May 2010, pp. 29-36

Vilashini Cooppan. "World Literature and Global Theory: Comparative Literature for the New Millennium Author(s)". *Symplokē*, Vol. 9, No. 1/2, Globalism & Theory (2001), pp. 15-43

Frederic Jameson, "Third-World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism"

Pascale Casanova, Chap. 14. "Literature as a World". David Damrosch (Ed.), *World Literature in Theory*.

Week 6-7-8 : Comparative Literature and Translation Studies

André Lefevere, " Introduction: Comparative Literature and Translation".

Lucia Boldrini,, “Comparative literature and translation, historical breaks and continuing debates: Can the past teach us something about the future?”.

Week 9-10-11: The Crisis of Comparative Literature

Emily Apter, “Introduction”. *Against World Literature*. Verso, 2013.

Ning WANG, “The Crisis of Comparative Literature and the Rise of World Literature”.

Zhoukkun Han and Quan Wen. “Reflections on the Crisis of Comparative Literature in the Contemporary West”.

Week 12: exam session

Course Objectives:

It is an introductory course to the theories and methods of comparative literature. It allows students to build facility with multiple methods and skills in critical thinking, viewing, and writing on comparative literature. Students also delve into the insights and methods provided over history on the way to study and critically engage with comparative literature. The relation of translation studies, “world literature”, philosophy, history, linguistics, sociology, and the other human sciences to the study of comparative literature will be investigated.

The course is based on the study of a number of key critical texts in the field of comparative literature, written by major theorists of the twentieth century. The texts aim at exposing the relevance of comparative literature to the modern/global reader and the challenges it poses in relation to national literatures and transcultural exigencies.

Overall, the students’ critical engagement with these texts will develop their critical reasoning, writing, and reading skills. It may open new perspectives for their research career.

Method of evaluation:

-30 % - Quality and originality of the oral presentation

70 % - the midterm class test

References:

Steven Totosy de Zepetnek. *Comparative Literature Theory, Method, Application*. Amsterdam - Atlanta, GA 1998

franco Moretti, “Conjectures on World Literature”. *New left review*1. Jan, Feb 2000

Jameson, Frederic. "Third-World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism". *Social Text*, No. 15 (Autumn, 1986), pp. 65-88.

Damrosch, David. (Ed.) *World Literature in Theory*. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2014

Apter, Emily. *Against World Literature*. Verso, 2013.

WANG, Ning. "The Crisis of Comparative Literature and the Rise of World Literature". *Comparative Literature: East & West*, 12:1, 28-32.

Han, Zhoukkun and Quan Wen. "Reflections on the Crisis of Comparative Literature in the Contemporary West". UNIVERSITY PRESS <<http://www.thepress.purdue.edu>>

Boldrini, Lucia. "Comparative literature and translation, historical breaks and continuing debates: Can the past teach us something about the future?". VI Congresso Nacional Associação Portuguesa de Literatura Comparada.

Lefevere, André. "Introduction: Comparative Literature and Translation". *Comparative Literature*, Vol. 47, No. 1, *On Translation* (Winter, 1995), pp. 1-10

Guillen, Claudio. *The Challenge of Comparative Literature*. Harvard Uni. Press, 1993.