

Sample Syllabus COMPARATIVE STUDIES 273
INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LITERATURE

Instructor: Rick Livingston Livingston.28@osu.edu 247-6763
Office: 104 East 15th Avenue (Knight House) Office Hours: M,W 1-3 and by appt.

Rationale: In this course, you will be introduced some of the basic concepts, skills and strategies used to compare literary texts from different cultures and historical periods. We will be looking closely at four epics and a novel, asking questions about the similarities and differences between them. We will pay attention to ideas about literary form, genre, canon, and cultural authority, as well as considering the problems of cross-cultural and trans-historical translation. In the process, you can expect to become a more conscious and careful reader of texts and to gain insights into the religious, political and moral traditions of several cultures.

Required Texts (available at SBX):

Gilgamesh, David Ferry, trans. (FSG/Noonday)
Ramayana, Ranchor Prime, trans. (Mandala Classics)
Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, D.T. Niane, ed.; G. Pickett, trans. (Longman)
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, W.S. Merwin, trans. (Knopf)
Ceremony, Leslie Marmon Silko (Penguin)

Most of these books exist in multiple translations, but, for the purposes of this class, please get the versions indicated. There will also be a few additional handouts and readings, most available on-line at the class website on WebCT <https://class.osu.edu/>

Requirements: Attendance and participation	10%
4 On-Line Exercises	20%
2 4-5 pp. papers	20% each
Final Exam or Paper	30%

Please note: The class will be run primarily by discussion; your regular attendance and participation is vital. More than two unexcused absences will seriously affect your final grade. Please have the books read by the first date listed for discussion. All written work must be typed, double-spaced and carefully proofread (not just spell-checked!). Papers are due on the dates indicated. Unless specifically arranged with me beforehand, late papers will be downgraded (A=A-, etc) for each delinquent day.

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with documented disabilities. Eligible students should talk to me privately to discuss your needs and contact the Office for Disability Services in room 150 Pomerene Hall (614-292-3307) to coordinate arrangements.

Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct, particularly the rules regarding plagiarism, as stated in the University's Code of Student Conduct. All cases of plagiarism will be treated very seriously according to the University's guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Sept	23	Introduction: <u>Reading for Comparison</u>	
	28	<u>Gilgamesh</u> 1 p. personal introduction due (see below)	
		<u>Gilgamesh</u>	
Oct		<u>Gilgamesh</u> Complete On-Line Exercise 1 for this class	
		Finish <u>Gilgamesh</u> /Begin <u>Ramayana</u>	
		<u>Ramayana</u>	
		No Class On-Line Exercise 2	
		<u>Ramayana</u> Paper Due	
		<u>Ramayana</u>	
		<u>Sundiata</u>	
		<u>Sundiata</u> Exercise 3	
Nov		<u>Sundiata</u>	
		<u>Sundiata</u>	
		<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u>	
		<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u>	
		<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u> PAPER DUE	
		<u>Ceremony</u>	
		<u>Ceremony</u> Exercise 4	
		<u>Ceremony</u>	
Dec	2	<u>Ceremony</u> and Conclusion	

For Tues Sept 28: please turn in a 1pp (or so) personal introduction, including contact information (phone, email), address, major (if known), hometown, and any other information, relevant or irrelevant, that will help me get to know you. Describe yourself as a reader. What would make you want to re-read a book?