

## Sample Syllabus

### Comparative Studies ~~515~~ 573 World Literature: Theory and Practice

**Objective:** What is world literature? When did it emerge? Do literary works from around the world constitute a unified body of texts? How do individual poems or novels relate to this broad category? What happens to them when they enter this domain? Does world literature spell the end of national literatures? Are we entering a new age of internationalism? Do we become more cosmopolitan when we engage with world literature? Does world literature promote greater intercultural communication? We will try to answer some of these questions in the course. While we would be concerned with broad historical and cultural issues in the first couple of weeks, we will be reading works of world literature for the rest of the quarter. The works themselves will be representative of various ages, places, and genres. We will be reading these works with the following topics in mind: translation, language, nationalism, globalization, and internationalism.

**Requirements:** Energetic, original, rigorous, and daily class participation will be required. Students will be expected to complete the required readings in time. The course will entail the examination of issues and arguments rather than confession of personal experiences. Students will submit a research paper at the end of the quarter, which will be about 10 pages in length and should address any of the topics discussed in the course. They will submit an outline of the paper by the sixth week.

This will be a seminar-like course, with much emphasis placed on discussion, exploration of views, and presentation of reports.

**Grades:** Short (3-5 pp.) papers 20%, participation 20%, oral presentation (on assigned reading) 10%, research paper (10-12 pp.) 30%, final examination (essay exam) 20%.

#### Required Texts:

David Defrost, *What Is World Literature?* (Princeton UP, 2003).

Euripides, *The Bacchae*

Wole Soyinka, *Bacchae of Euripides* (Methuen, 1973).

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

J. M. Coetzee, *Foe* (Penguin, 1988).

Goethe, *The Sufferings of Young Werther*

Orhan Pamuk, *My Name Is Red* (Vintage, 2002)

Heliiodorus, *Aethiopica: An Ethiopian Romance* (U Penn P, 1999)

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Perennial, 1998)

*Course Packet:* Selections from Claudio Gillen, *The Challenge of Comparative Literature* (Harvard UP, 1993);

Sarah Lawall, *Reading World Literature* (U Texas P, 1994); Goethe, *Conversations with Eckermann* (repr; Norton Point Press, 1984); several other essays.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment as soon as possible to discuss the course format, to anticipate needs, and to explore potential accommodations. The instructor relies on the Office of Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Students who have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307; [www.ods.ohio-state.edu](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu)), are encouraged to do so.

**Plagiarism.** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

## Weekly Syllabus

### Week One: On Comparative Literature

1 Introduction

2 From Guillen, *The Challenge of Comparative Literature*, Sauusy, "Comparative Literature"

### Week Two: From Comp Lit to World Lit?

1 Weisstein, "The Permanent Crisis of Comparative Literature"; Damrosch, "Comparative Literature?"

2 From Lawall, *Reading World Literature*; From Goethe, *Conversations with Eckermann*

### Week Three: What is World Literature?

1 Damrosch, from *What is World Literature*, Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature"

2 Jusdanis, "World Literature: What Is It Good For?"

Short essay due.

### Week Four: Ancients and Moderns

1 Euripides, *The Bacchae*

2 Soyinka, *Bacchae of Euripides*

### Week Five: Colonial Reading

1 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

2 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

### Week Six: Postcolonial Reading

1 Coetzee, *Foe*

2 Coetzee, *Foe*

Short essay due.

### Week Seven: Transcending National Boundaries

1 Goethe, *The Sufferings of Young Werther*

2 Goethe, *The Sufferings of Young Werther*

### Week Eight: Compatibility/Clash of Cultural Systems

1 Pamuk, *My Name Is Red*

2 Pamuk, *My Name Is Red*

### Week Nine: Cultural Mixing

1 Heliodorus, *Aethiopica*

2 Heliodorus, *Aethiopica*

### Week Ten: Global Literature

1 Roy, *The God of Small Things*

2 Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Research paper due.

Final exam during Finals Week.