

Cutting Edge Issues in Comparative Literature

(theory and critical practice)

This is a graduate lecture course chiefly given by the professor to a mixed audience of both graduate students of English language and literature and Chinese language and literature who have a solid foundation of literary theory and two or more than two national literatures and other relevant fields of knowledge. The course is given in the English language chiefly, occasionally in Chinese or other languages. In this course, the history and different methodologies of comparative literature both in the West and in China will be described in a critical way, and current theoretical issues will be addressed and discussed in a comparative manner among the students. Through attending this course, students will be able to have a general picture of what comparative literature is and what world literature is so that they could write critical essays or reviews and present it in class on either theoretic issues from a comparative and global perspective or on comparative studies of two or more than two literary phenomena from an international and theoretical perspective. The final exam will be conducted by asking the students to submit a research paper longer than 3000 words in English.

Part I Theoretical Descriptions

Lecture 1. Comparative literature: Names and Definitions

Lecture 2. Major Methodologies of Comparative Literature: Historical and Contemporary

Lecture 3: The Origin and Development of Comparative Literature in the West

Lecture 4: Comparative Literature in China: Historical Retrospection and Contemporary Orientations

Lecture 5: Comparative Literature: Toward Interdisciplinary Studies

Part II Practice in Comparative Studies of Literatures: Influence and Reception

Lecture 6: Influence Studies (1): Western Trends of Literature and Modern Chinese Literature

Lecture 7: Influence Studies (2): The Critical Reception of Postmodernism in Contemporary Chinese Literature

Lecture 8: Influence Studies (3): Modern Chinese Literature in the West

Part III Practice in Comparative Studies of Literatures: Parallel Analyses

Lecture 9: Parallel Studies: Comparative Study of Man-Nature Relationships Represented in Chinese and Western Literature

Lecture 10: Parallel and General Studies: Comparative Literature: Toward the Stage of World Literature

Part IV Interdisciplinary Studies of Comparative Literature

Lecture 11: Interdisciplinary Studies: (1) Freudianism and 20th Century Chinese

Literature

Lecture 12: Interdisciplinary Studies: (2) Toward the Construction of a Postmodern Environmental Ethic

Part V Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization

Lecture 13: Globalization and Comparative Literature

Lecture 14: Global English(es), and Global Chinese(s): Toward a New Orientation of Literary Historiography

Lecture 15: World Literature and the Dynamic Function of Translation

Students Presentation

Exam

The exam is divided into two parts: **class presentation and participation in discussions; an essay of either 3000 words in English** or 8000 Chinese characters, which could be recommended for publication if well written.

Textbook

曹顺庆主编：比较文学概论，北京：高等教育出版社，2015年版

Major References

王宁著：比较文学：理论思考与文学阐释，上海：复旦大学出版社，2011年版

王宁著：比较文学、世界文学与翻译研究，上海：复旦大学出版社，2014年版

Bassnett, Susan. *Comparative Literature: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford UK & Cambridge USA: Blackwell, 1993.

Bernheimer, Charles ed. *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Dominguez, Cesar, Haun Saussy, Dario Villanueva. *Introducing Comparative Literature: New Trends and Applications*. London: Routledge, 2014.

Earl Miner. *Comparative Poetics: An Intercultural Essay on Theories of Literature*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1990.

Heise, Ursula K. ed. *Futures of Comparative Literature*. New York and London: Routledge, 2017.

Saussy, Haun ed. *Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.