

**GS ENG/HUMA/TRANS 6157 3.0**  
**Comparative and World Literature Seminar: History and Practice**

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**Course Description**

This seminar introduces students to the conditions of emergence and development of the discipline of Comparative Literature from its beginnings in nineteenth-century Europe to its most recent global iteration of World Literature. Students will experience how expanded understandings of cultural translation and textuality have radically altered and expanded the Eurocentric character of the discipline.

Questions for investigation include (with the emphasis changing from year to year): What are the politics (the stakes, the ethics, the costs) of practicing Comparative Literature? How do those compare with the practice of World Literature? How do they relate to colonial, post-colonial, diasporic, cultural, and translation studies? How are Comparative Literature and World Literature practiced in different locations? What role has the globalization of capital played in the formation of the discipline? How are theoretical and methodological decisions and approaches such as World Literature redefining the discipline?

Texts will include theoretical and methodological essays by Theodor Adorno, Emily Apter, Erich Auerbach, Pascale Casanova, Wai Chee Dimock, David Damrosch, Charles Mill Gayley, Debjani Ganguly, Édouard Glissant, J.W. von Goethe, Johann Gottfried Herder, Kobayashi Hideo, Djelal Kadir, Adam Kirsch, Franco Moretti, Bruce Robbins, Edward Said, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Germaine de Staël, Galin Tihanov, Lawrence Venuti, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, René Wellek, and others.

**Evaluation**

Two short response papers (10% each).

Class presentation (15 minutes, 10%); essay based on the presentation (20%) (2300 words/7 pages)

Final research paper (40%) (3500 words)

Class participation (10%)

**This seminar course is required for both the Humanities Graduate Diploma in Comparative Literature and the English Graduate Diploma in World Literature.** The seminar introduces students to the history of both fields, and the theories and methodologies that have forged them. Students who are not enrolled in either diploma are of course welcome.