

Course Descriptions

Research Methods in Comparative Literary Studies: (0202722 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (None)

This course mainly helps students write published research papers in the field of comparative literary studies. In so doing, it introduces them to a number of research methods, research terminology, and ethical principles of research. It also provides them with the tools and skills required to understand research terminology and the components of a literature review process; to design a research proposal; to begin initial preparations for embarking on a new research project; and develop research questions that are based on and build upon a critical appraisal of existing research. Students will be required to write a research paper which examines an issue related to comparative literary studies.

Comparative Literature and Literary Theory: (0202731 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (None)

This course is devoted to the study of literature from a comparative and theoretical perspective. It aims to develop critical understandings of the nature of comparative literature and its place in the general context of contemporary theoretical approaches to the study of literature. The course enables students to engage rigorously with critical theory as both reflections on interpretive method and tool of critique. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Intertextuality: (0202733 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

This course introduces students to different theories of intertextuality that are used in analyzing literary texts. In particular, it examines the interrelationships between texts building on notions suggested by Julia Kristeva and Gerard Genette among others. The course helps students differentiate between some intertextual figures such as allusion, quotation, calque, plagiarism, translation, pastiche among others. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Arabic Literature and *The Quran* in a Comparative English Context: (0202735 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The main aim of this course is to assess the role Arabic literature and *The Quran* play in English literature through history. It introduces students to various Arabic texts such as *The Arabian Nights*, *Hayy ibn Yaqdhan*, Arabic (especially Pre-Islamic) Poetry that influence English writers (such as Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron, Jane Austen, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Dickens, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Rudyard Kipling, and T. S. Eliot). Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Comparative War Literature: (0202737 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The aim of this course is to examine the representations of war and conflict in world literature from a comparative perspective. Students are expected to compare different experiences of violent conflicts in various literatures of war and how notions of hierarchy, symmetry, analogy, and connection come into play, whether implicitly or explicitly, in these acts of comparison. The course is aimed to identify how images of war and notions of global conflict are continuously made and remade, redefined and re-imagined in an attempt to move beyond questions of representing war, toward a deep-seated exploration of the epistemology and the ethics of comparison in the interface of conflict and culture. Students will be acquainted with how notions of comparison and equivalence structure our thinking about power and violence in the world at large as well as within literary and cultural studies. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Postcolonial Studies: (0202738 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The aim of this course is to examine the historical relationships of power, domination, and practices of imperialism and colonialism in the modern period (late nineteenth-century to the present) through the study of literature and culture. It examines, through studying the literatures of colonial and postcolonial cultures, the politics of culture in relation to both the imperialist world's interpretation of the colonial, and postcolonial assertions of autonomy. In this context, while 'postcolonial' refers primarily to formerly colonised societies of the so-called 'Third World', it also includes questions relevant to colonising cultures. Students will be introduced to a variety of theoretical texts from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Near and Middle East including Edward Said, Homi Bhabha and Gayatri Spivak among others. These will address representations of colonialism and decolonisation, neo-colonialism, nationalism in postcolonial societies and diasporic experiences, allowing students to explore the heterogeneous meanings, intersections, and strategies of analysis that have emerged with

reference to postcolonial studies. Particular attention will be paid to colonial and postcolonial constructs such as the Oriental, the Global, the Cosmopolitan, the Third World, and the multicultural. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Construction of Identity in World Literature: (0202739 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The aim of this course is to examine the significant role of literature and creative writing in the construction and representation of cultural identity, the process of shaping the self in world literature, and the issue of identity crises that emerged in postcolonial period. Students will read theoretical arguments as well as literary products that discuss the issue of identity in a postcolonial world. Students are acquainted with the ways in which these texts view and present their ideas about constructing identity in former colonized countries and immigrants from these countries who suffered from facing the diasporas and the dilemma of the difficulty to construct their identity. Students will read works of postcolonial novelists of both writers in former British colonies such as V.S. Naipaul, and Tayeb Salih and contemporary Diaspora writers including Ahdaf Soueif and Ghada Al-Saman among others. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Comparative Literary Stylistics: (0202754 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The aim of this course is to develop the student ability to compare the conceptual frameworks and linguistic schemes in understanding literary language. Students are required to identify devices, approaches, and techniques in stylistics. They are also expected to closely read and analyze the content of particular literary selections to appreciate their literal and non-literal levels. This involves examining the language of literary texts in the three genres of poetry, prose, and drama, with a view to helping students arrive at a fuller understanding and appreciation of these texts through discussing the elements of each basic literary genre. The course provides general explanations of principles and tools for the purpose of describing poetic, narrative, and dramatic texts. Students are also motivated to compare and contrast the extended meanings of those selections. The general aim of this course is to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake a meaningful stylistic analysis of literary texts. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Comparative Literary Translation: (0202755 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202754)

This course gives an introduction into the major developments and currents in comparative literature studies, with special attention to the role of literary translations and of translators as mediators between different cultures. In the first part, a number of basic concepts in the field (such as world literature, genetic vs. typological relations, interliterary vs. intersemiotic, imagology, the postcolonial approach, and cultural globalization) will be discussed. The second part focuses on the significance of literary translators in the reception of foreign cultures (as well as in the emergence of literary

canons among others), the interaction between the translator and other actors, the relationship between translators, poetics, and authors; poetics, and the phenomenon of the writer-translator. In the practical part of this course, students will apply theoretical insights from comparative literature studies to the cultural area they are specializing in. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Exilic Writings: (0202741 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

This course introduces students to the literature of exile and migration. It examines the dialectics of exile, migration, fragmentation, displacement, rootlessness, time, space, homeland, and homesickness that dominate the writings of writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Oscar Wilde, Victor Hugo, Dante, Pablo Neruda, Sigmund Freud, and Edward Said. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Literary Orientalism: (0202742 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (0202731)

The main purpose of this course is to help students analyze the Western stereotypes of the Orient that permeate English literary texts with reference to Edward Said's *Orientalism*. In particular, it examines English literary portrayals of the Arab World and Islam. Emphasis is placed more on how the Prophet Mohammed, Saladin (among many other Islamic figures) are depicted by English poets, playwrights, novelists, and short story writers. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Comparative Syntax: (0202751 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (None)

This course introduces the syntactic theoretical framework needed for the analysis. It also familiarizes students with the structural differences between Arabic and English; students learn to recognize the different word orders and agreement patterns. As a result, students are expected to provide comparative analyses of various Arabic and English constructions. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.

Contrastive Phonetics: (0202742 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (None)

This course aims at investigating some of the phonetic differences between English and Arabic. The differences attested in the segmental inventories of English and Arabic will be discussed at length. Special attention will be paid to the theory of distinctive features and the contrasts between the two languages with the regard to the range of features applied in each language. Students are expected to write short research papers on contrastive elements in English and Arabic.

Cross-cultural Pragmatics: (0202753 Credit Hours) Prerequisite (None)

This course aims to discuss pragmatics across cultures through investigating certain aspects of language use, such as speech acts, behaviour patterns, and language behaviour. Students will familiarise themselves with the most relevant theories, including Politeness, and will investigate how these theories can be applied to the analysis of cross-cultural discourse. Students will also examine how the signalling and recovering of the speaker's intention varies across cultures and what strategies enable interactants to negotiate meaning in different situations. Students will be required to write a research paper that examines an issue related to the course.