### COL1000 FACULTY SEMINAR: BASES FOR COMPARISON

Instructor: Uzoma Esonwanne

Venue: Seminar Room

Time: F 1.15–3.45

Office: 715 JHB (Jackman Humanities Building)

Office Hours: (By appointment only)

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**Description:** COL1000 is a general introduction to Comparative Literature, to contemporary theory, and to criticism. Its purpose is to offer all incoming MA and PhD students with some exposure to key issues in the discipline. Organized around the broad theme of “Bases for Comparison,” each weekly seminar will explore a subtheme over two sessions. In the first session, we will examine issues raised in an essay selected for that week. In the second session, participating faculty will join us in the exploration of issues pertaining to comparison across different media, disciplines, and literary genres and traditions.

**Texts:** available on the course website.

## Evaluation: all written assignments should be submitted by email as MSWord documents

## Participation: 20% (includes attendance/participation in discussions)

## Position papers: 40% (2 papers, 4–5 pages each; the first is due Friday, October 14, the second Friday, November 18)

## Research essay: 40% (due Friday, January 17, 2017; in 5000–7000 words, critically explore an issue that arose from the themes covered in the course; please use MLA Documentation)

**Calendar**

S16: Introduction: What now! (Professor Uzoma Esonwanne)

\* Peter Brooks, “Must We Apologize?”

Linda Hutcheon, “Congenitally Contrarian”

S23: “Grounds for Comparison: Adjacent Spaces” (Professor Atsuko Sakaki)

\* Francoise Lionnet, “Spaces of Comparison”

Mieke Bal, “Second Person Narrative,” *Quoting Caravaggio*: *Contemporary Art, Preposterous History*

LaMarre, “The Multi-Sensible Figure,” *Uncovering Heinan Japan*

S30: “Exploring Non-places” (Professor Thomas Lahusen)

\* Roland Greene, “Not Works But Networks: Comparative Literature and Colonial Worlds”

Augé, *Non-Places: An Introduction to Supermodernity*

Andreassen, et al., *Persistent Memories: Pyramiden - A Soviet Mining Town in the High Arctic*

O7: “Comparison: Tradition and Its Others” (Professor Jill Ross)

\* Edward W. Said, “Introduction: Secular Criticism,” *The World, the Text, and the Critic*

Eric Auerbach, “Odysseus’ Scar,” *Mimesis*

Eric Auerbach, “Figura,” *Scenes from the Drama of European Literature*

O14: “Incommensurability: Apples and Oranges” (Professor Victor Li)

\* Steven Ungar, “Writing in Tongues: Thoughts on the Work of Translation”

Natalie Melas, “Grounds for Comparison,” *All the Difference in the World*

Alain Badiou, “A Poetic Dialectic,” *Handbook of Aesthetics*

O21: “Comparison in Practice: Trauma” (Professor Barbara Havercroft)

\* Michael Rothberg, “Introduction,” *Multi-Directional Memory*: *Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization*

Roger Lockhurst, “Introduction,” *The Trauma Question*

Susan J. Brison, “The Uses of Narrative in the Aftermath of Violence,” *On Feminist Ethics and Politics*

\*O28: “Grounds for Comparison: the System of Nation States” (Professor Veronika Ambros)

\* Pascale Casanova, “Literature, Nation, and Politics”

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, “What is a Minor Literature?” *Towards a Minor Literature*

Karel Capek, “RUR”

N4: “Comparing Systems: Aesthetics and Psychoanalysis” (Professor John Zilcosky)

\* Tobin Siebers, “Sincerely Yours”

E.T.A. Hoffmann, “The Sandman”

Sigmund Freud, “The Uncanny”

Samuel Weber, “Introduction: the Legend of Freud”

N11: “Comparative Media” (Professor Ruoyon Bai)

\* Malti–Douglas, “Beyond Comparison Shopping: This is Not Your Father’s Comp. Lit.”

Manovich, “The Database,” *The Language of New Media* (pp. 218-243).

+Manovich, “Principles of New Media,” *The Language of New Media* (pp. 27-48)

N18: “Words and Things” (Professor John Paul Ricco)

\* Riffaterre, “On the Complementarity of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.”

W.J.T. Mitchell, “Metapictures,” *Picture Theory* (Chicago 1994)

Michel Foucault, *This Is Not a Pipe* (California 1983)

\*N25: “Words and Images, Autobiography and Photography” (Professor Julie LeBlanc)

\* Jonathan Culler, “Comparative Literature at Last”

Liliane Louvel, “Poetics of the Iconotext”

D2: “Public Assembly and Democracy” (Professor Eva-Lynn Jagoe)

\* Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Rethinking Comparativism”

Judith Butler, “Introduction” *Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly”*

Wendy Brown, “Undoing Democracy: Neoliberalism’s Remaking of State and Subject,” *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism’s Stealth Revolution*

\* These will be discussed in the first period.

+ Optional reading

**Bibliography**

Bernheimer, Charles. Ed. *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Baltimore and London: The

Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Brooks, Peter. “Must We Apologize?” *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Ed. Charles

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Casanova, Pascale. “Literature, Nation, and Politics.” *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature*: *From the*

*European Enlightenment to the Global Present*. Ed. David Damrosch, Natalie Melas, Mbongiseni Buthelezi. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2009

Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *Kafka*: *Toward a Minor Literature*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota

Press, 1986.

D’haen, Theo, David Damrosch, and Djelal Kadir. Eds. *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*. New

York: Routledge, 2012. http://books1.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/

\*Greene, Roland. “Not Works But Networks: Comparative Literature and Colonial Worlds.” *Comparative*

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Grossman, Lionel, and Mihai L. Spariosu. *Building a Profession: Autobiographical Perspectives on the History of*

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Riffaterre, Michael. “On the Complementarity of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.” *Comparative*

*Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Ed. Charles Bernheimer. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. Pp. 66–73. 224 pp. ISBN: 0–8018–5005–3

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

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Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. Pp. 195–203. 224 pp. ISBN: 0–8018–5005–3

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “Rethinking Comparativism.” *New Literary History* 40.3 (2009): 609–26.

\*Ungar, Steven. “Writing in Tongues: Thoughts on the Work of Translation.” *Comparative Literature in an Age*

*of Globalization*. Ed. Haun Saussy. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. Pp. XX–XXX. 224 pp. ISBN: 0–8018–5005–3