

<b>Course Title</b>	: Studies in Comparative Literature
<b>Course Code</b>	: TRA3226
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 2 to 4
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture-tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
<b>Category</b>	: Elective (Category B)
<b>Prerequisite</b>	: Nil
<b>Co-requisite</b>	: Nil
<b>Exclusion</b>	: Nil
<b>Exemption Requirement</b>	: Nil

### **Brief Course Description:**

This course offers a comparative study of representative works in Chinese, English and European literature, with balanced emphasis on thematic concerns, formal techniques, aesthetic qualities, and cultural-historical contexts. Attention will be paid to the cultivation of a broad understanding of literary and cultural developments from their early beginnings.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

### **Aims:**

This course aims at heightening students' sensitivity to artistic, cultural and linguistic issues in different literary traditions, which will better equip them to undertake translation and other cross-cultural work.

### **Learning Outcomes (LOs):**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify abiding artistic and cultural issues in world literature;
2. explain different perceptions and treatments of similar issues in world literature;
3. apply a cross-cultural perspective in literary criticism;
4. perform reliable "surgery" on literary/cultural texts or passages; and
5. make use of sharpened linguistic and analytical skills to engage in cultural and literary criticism.

### **Indicative Content:**

This course is organized by themes, which may include:

1. universal myths and culture heroes;
2. religious and philosophical world views;
3. individual and historical destiny;
4. social and natural ideals; and
5. woman and society.

### **Teaching Method:**

Lectures and tutorials in the form of oral presentations and class discussions. Emphasis will be put on interactive and constructivist learning.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes:**

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes will be measured by means of:

1. Class discussions, oral presentations, written essays or book reviews, with emphasis on

- independent judgment and constructivist learning;
- An examination with questions that require students to analyse literary texts in relation to the themes from a critical angle beyond memorisation.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method		
	Class discussion	Oral report	Written essay
Students will be able to identify abiding artistic and cultural issues in world literature	X	X	X
Students will be able to explain different perceptions and treatments of similar issues in world literature	X	X	X
Students will be able to apply a cross-cultural perspective in literary criticism	X	X	X
Students will be able to perform reliable “surgery” on literary/cultural texts or passages	X	X	X
Students will be able to make use of sharpened linguistic and analytical skills to engage in cultural and literary criticism	X	X	X

**Assessment:**

Examination: 50% (One 2-hour paper)

Continuous assessment: 50% (Class discussion 10%, Oral report 10%, Written essay 30%)

**Required/Essential Readings:**

Texts may vary from year to year and according to instructor, but include selections from the following lists:

Greek myths, Plato, *The Death of King Arthur*, Chaucer, Donne, Shakespeare, Milton, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Defoe, Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, D. H. Lawrence, Camus, Beckett, Brecht, Chekhov, Woolf, etc.

**Supplementary Readings:**

Abrams, M. H. and Harpham, Geoffrey, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011.

Chan, Sin-wai and David E. Pollard, *An Encyclopaedia of Translation*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1995.

Guerin, Wilfred, et al., *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Segal, Robert A., *Hero Myths: A Reader*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.

**Important Notes:**

- Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper

acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.