

<b>Course Title</b>	: World Literature and Translation
<b>Course Code</b>	: TRA4329
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: 3-4
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Lecture-tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: Two-hour lecture per week One-hour tutorial per week
<b>Category</b>	: Elective (Category B)
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: Not Applicable
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: Not Applicable
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: Not Applicable
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: Not Applicable

### **Brief Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the notion of world literature. It discusses Chinese literature through the reading of English translations, examining them with reference to literatures across the world. Engaging with the debate within the study of world literature, this course asks students to perform close-text analysis on literary works in translations, compares and discusses how literary works can be perceived and received by its source text readers and target text readers. The scope of texts can include not only literary works but also film adaptations.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

### **Aims:**

This course aims at introducing students to the notion of world literature and how it promotes the importance of reading texts in translations. It discusses the advantages and the potential problems in this notion, examining texts in translations and how they are perceived and received by the target text readers. This course also aims at encouraging students to read Chinese literary works in English translations, and other important literary texts across the world in their English translations. It requires students to see translations as independent literary works and perform close-text analysis on these works.

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

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

1. Summarize their basic understanding of the concepts and debates within the notion of world literature;
2. summarize their basic understanding of the thematic and theoretical issues that are relevant to the texts in this course;
3. analyse texts with the skills of close-reading;
4. analyse texts in translations;
5. assess the different emphases and themes in the original text and its translations; and
6. evaluate the similarities and differences in the perceptions and receptions between the source text readers and the target text readers.

**Indicative Contents:**

1. The notion of world literature and the debate within this notion;
2. the relationship between translation and world literature;
3. analyse Chinese literary works in English translations;
4. compare the similarities and differences between Chinese texts and their translations;
5. study and examine how western readers perceive and receive Chinese literary works in English translations;
6. compare western readers' perspectives with Chinese readers' perspectives on reading Chinese literary works;
7. analyse important literary works across the world;
8. analyse Chinese literary works in translations with the help of literary works across the world;
9. compare and contrast the different perceptions and receptions of literary works between readers across the world.

**Teaching Method:**

Lectures and tutorial discussions. Lectures will be used primarily to discuss the thematic and theoretical issues on world literature and on literature in translation, while tutorials will be used for discussion and group presentations.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. A tutorial group presentation in which students are required to present and explain an academic article that is relevant to the texts and themes in this course or on the debate within the studies of world literature (ILOs 1 and 2).
2. A test in which students are required to perform close-text analysis on the texts within this course (ILOs 3, 4, 5, 6).
3. A final essay in which students are required to examine a text in this course, and discuss that in relation to the thematic issues discussed in the lectures, and in the context of studying texts as world literature (ILOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

**Assessment:**

One tutorial presentation:	30%
One test:	30%
One final essay:	40%

**Required/ Essential Readings:**

Damrosch, David, et al. (Eds.). *The Longman Anthology of World Literature*. New York: Longman. 2004.

Puchner, Martin, et al. (Eds.). *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. 4th ed, New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2018.

**Recommended/ Supplementary Readings:**

Apter, Emily. "Global Translatio: The 'Invention' of Comparative Literature, Istanbul, 1933." In *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*. Princeton: Princeton UP. 2006. 41–64.

Apter, Emily. *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability*. New York: Verso. 2013.

Casanova, Pascale. "Literature as a World." *New Left Review* 31. 2005. 71–90.

Casanova, Pascale. *The World Republic of Letters*. Trans. M. B. Debevoise. Cambridge: Harvard UP. 2007.

Damrosch, David. *What is World Literature?* Princeton: Princeton UP. 2003.

Damrosch, David. *How to Read World Literature*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. 2009.

Moretti, Franco. "More Conjectures." *New Left Review* 20. 2003. 73–81.

Moretti, Franco. "Conjectures on World Literature." In *Debating World Literature*. Ed. Christopher Prendergast. New York: Verso. 2004. 148–162.

Robbins, Bruce. "Prolegomena to a Cosmopolitanism in Deep Time." *Interventions* 18:2. 2016. 172–186.

Saussy, Haun. "Exquisite Cadavers Stitched from Fresh Nightmares: Of Memes, Hives, and Selfish Genes." In *Comparative Literature in the Age of Globalization*. Ed. Haun Saussy. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP. 2006. 3–42.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Eds. Lawrence Grossberg and Cary Nelson. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1998. 271–313.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "The Politics of Translation." In *The Translation Studies Reader*. Ed. Lawrence Venuti. New York: Routledge. 2000. 397–416.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. *Death of a Discipline*. New York: Columbia UP. 2003.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Rethinking Comparativism." In *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*. Cambridge: Harvard UP. 2012. 467–483.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, and David Damrosch. "Comparative Literature/World Literature: A Discussion" (2011). In *World Literature in Theory*. Ed. David Damrosch. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. 2014. 363–388.

Venuti, Lawrence. "World Literature and Translation Studies." In *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*. Eds. Theo D'haen, David Damrosch, and Djelal Kadir. New York: Routledge. 2012. 180–193.

Zhang, Longxi. "Epilogue: The Changing Concept of World Literature." In *World Literature in Theory*. Ed. David Damrosch. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. 2014. 513–523.

**Important Notes:**

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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/>.