The Comparative Modernisms workshop seeks to foster a dialogue among North-western professors and students interested in nationally diverse forms of modernism, with a particular emphasis on literature. Throughout the 2011-12 academic year, this Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities-sponsored workshop will meet to discuss readings and will bring an array of speakers to campus. The group is focusing primarily on Brazil in the Fall quarter, Japan in the Winter, and Turkey in the Spring.

To date the group has brought David Jackson from Yale University to offer an introduction to Brazilian *modernismo* in literature and the arts, and has had a reading group meeting centered around Mário de Andrade’s 1928 novel *Macunaíma* (and the 1969 film adaptation). It also recently helped bring Eric Hayot (Pennsylvania State University) and Jing Tsu (Yale University) to talk about Chinese literary modernism in a comparative context.

The group is designed primarily for faculty and graduate students, but undergraduates are welcome to participate. Anyone interested in having access to readings through the group’s Blackboard site or in being on our e-mail list can write to Christopher Bush (c-bush@northwestern.edu) or César Braga-Pinto (c-braga-pinto@northwestern.edu).
On November 18th, Martin Hägglund, Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows, and a Distinguished International Fellow of the London Graduate School, will lead two events. The first, a graduate workshop on his book, *Radical Atheism: Derrida and the Time of Life* (Stanford 2008), will take place from 10-12 in Kresge 2-345. To reserve a spot, please contact jane-holt@northwestern.edu.

Hägglund will then give a public lecture entitled “Dying for Time: From Socrates to Lacan and Beyond.” Hägglund will discuss the philosophical framework of his upcoming book *Dying for Time* (Harvard 2012), addressing the relation between time and desire. The lecture will be followed by a response from Peter Fenves. (1:30, Kresge 2-360).

**Past Events:**

Johanna Oksala, Senior Research Fellow of the Political Thought and Conceptual Change Center of Excellence at the University of Helsinki, and author of *Foucault on Freedom* (Cambridge, 2005), visited on October 14th & 15th. “Foucault’s Rethinking of Power” was a lecture and workshop for undergraduates that addressed Foucault’s most influential idea, productive power, and discussed its consequences for our understanding of subjectivity. Oksala also led a graduate workshop, “Neoliberal Governmentality: A Workshop on Foucault’s *The Birth of Biopolitics*, Lectures at the Collège de France 1978-1979” in which she spoke to the defining features of neoliberal governmentality and analyzed Foucault’s genealogical account of its development in his lectures “The Birth of Biopolitics.”

Eric Hayot (Pennsylvania State University) gave a talk on “Chinese Modernism and European Time.”

Is it possible to use the historical categories we’ve developed to talk about European literature in the analysis of literature from outside Europe? What kinds of challenges are posed by the inclusion of that literature into existing models of literary history? Hayot discussed these questions with particular reference to the history of Chinese modernism.

Scott Weintraub (University of New Hampshire) conducted a seminar on Latin American avant-garde and its global contexts. He also gave a talk entitled “A Transnational Poetics of the Avant-Gardes and Their (Chilean) Afterlives: The Nomad and the Hermit, Vicente Huidobro and Juan Luis Martinez,” for which Jorge Coronado (CLS and Spanish and Portuguese) was the respondent.

Jing Tsu (Yale University) gave a talk entitled “Modern Chinese Literature, Area Studies, and Comparative Literature.”

This talk discussed the future of literary studies by examining the new interface between traditionally area-bound national literary studies and the idea of comparisons. Engaging with the recent development of large-scale literary criticism, Tsu argued, instead, that it is the small articulations of linguistic difference and literary alliances at the thinner extremities of literary systems that are doing the heavy lifting for literary globalization.

Eric Hayot was the respondent for this talk.

**Trans-nationalism: Dialogue Politics**

Transnational and Comparative Modernisms: Two Dialogues - Nov 10/11
CLS 314: Approaches to Transnational Cinema

Firat Oruc  TTh 9:30-10:50, Crowe 1-125

Transnational cinema is a developing concept within film studies that encompasses a range of theories and practices relating to moving images which supersede national boundaries in becoming cultural products and representations. Along with seminal theoretical essays, in this course we will engage with films that fashion their narrative and aesthetic dynamics in relation to more than one national or cultural context. We will investigate the ways in which these films undermine the conventions of national and corporate cinemas in terms of their visual style, narrative structure, sound, language, editing, mise-en-scène and iconography.

Firat Oruc is the postdoctoral fellow in World Literature in the Comparative Literary Studies program. He earned his Ph.D. in 2010 from the Program in Literature at Duke University, along with two graduate certificates in African & African-American Studies and Interdisciplinary European Studies. Firat’s research and teaching interests include world literature, global modernism, postcolonial literatures and theory, modern discourses of Islam, literatures of the Middle East (with a concentration in Turkish), contemporary global fiction and transnational cinemas. This winter, he will teach CLS 314 (left), and in the spring, he will teach CLS 104 Freshman Seminar: World Literature & Human Rights.

CLS 304-0-20: Studies in Theme: Sinophone Travel

Peter Shen  TTh 12:30-1:50, Parkes 224

This course seeks to introduce students to the literary works and theoretical debates associated with a concept of recent coinage: “Sinophone literature.” In addition to reading writings from contemporary Sinophone writers, we will tackle issues such as transnationalism, diaspora, globalism, Chineseness and the politics of identity-formation.

Peter Zhiwei Shen (PhD Harvard, 2010) is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Program of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES). He is currently working on a translation project on the Sinophone writer Liu Daren and is a junior editor and contributor for A New Literary History of Modern Chinese Literature.

CLS 304-0-21: Studies in Theme: Middle Eastern Literature and the World

Rebecca Johnson  TTh 11:00-12:20, Kresge 4-335

What does it mean to be in the world? This course examines the idea of cosmopolitanism, or world citizenship, from its eighteenth-century origins to its recent articulations in literature and cinema, as a way of understanding the relationship between “East” and “West.” We will look at the role that Middle Eastern literatures and ideas of the East played in the formation of European concepts of cosmopolitanism, as well as the way that modern Middle Eastern authors reformulate those concepts and explore the gap between the cosmopolitan ideal and a globalized reality. Highlighting links between the flows of people, capital, and literature, these works often open up avenues for political and literary critique. In the end, they ask us to wonder, if world citizenship can be said to exist, what—or whose—“world” is it?

Rebecca Johnson teaches and writes about Middle Eastern literary culture in a comparative context. Her research focuses on the history and theory of the novel, theories of globalization and literature, and the poetics and politics of translation. She teaches courses in the Program in Comparative Literary Studies, the Program of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, the Department of English, and the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.
CLS Winter 2012 Courses

Undergraduate Courses

CLS 202: Interpreting Culture
Hannah Feldman  MW 11:00-11:50 & F discussion
This course will examine cultural production and the ways in which we learn to talk about it. We will consider culture in its high, low, media, mass and popular manifestations through a variety of theoretical and disciplinary vantage points, with special attention to how culture is deployed and received differently at various global sites.

CLS 304: Studies in Theme: Sinophone Travel
Peter Shen  TTh 12:30-1:50
See page 3

CLS 304: Studies in Theme: Middle Eastern Literature and the World
Rebecca Johnson  TTh 11:00-12:20
See page 3

CLS 311: Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation
Reginald Gibbons  TTh 2:00-3:20
This is a combination of seminar and workshop. Together we will translate three short poems (from three different languages) and study theoretical approaches to literary translation and brief accounts of translation practice.

CLS 314: Approaches to Transnational Cinemas
Firat Oruc  TTh 9:30-10:50
See page 3

CLS 383: Special Topics in Theory: Gender and Sexuality in the Moving Image
Domietta Torlasco  TTh 12:30-1:50
This course will explore how gender and sexuality are constituted, questioned, and transformed in the domain of cinema and time-based media. We will consider audiovisual works and theoretical, critical texts.

CLS 390: Antonioni’s Advanced Modernity: Gender, Ecology, Fashion and Architecture in Contemporary Life
Alessia Ricciardi  TTh 12:30-1:50
This course revolves around the work of Michelangelo Antonioni, one of the most iconic filmmakers of our times. We will survey Antonioni’s career from L’avventura (1960) to Identification of a Woman (1982), comparing his works with those of other filmmakers such as Wim Wenders, Sophia Coppola, and Wong Kar-wai.

CLS 411: Critical Practices: The Aesthetic
Christopher Bush  Th 2:30-4:50
In the first portion of this course, we will study the founding formulations of the aesthetic in the German eighteenth century. We then turn to theories of aesthetic modernity and avant-gardes, before exploring the transformations of aesthetic theory in non-Western, anti-colonial, and “global” contexts.

CLS 413: Comparative Studies in Theme: Generation, Degeneration, Miscegenation
César Braga-Pinto  T 2:30-4:50
In this seminar we will discuss how and why late 19th-century and early 20th-century fiction often represented a crisis in models of biological reproduction. We will also consider the meanings of the term “generation” as a form of “affiliation” in multi-racial societies such as Brazil.

CLS 488: Topics in Comp Lit: The Uncanny I: Literature and the First Person Singular (Shakespeare, Hölderlin)
Samuel Weber  M 2:30-5:00
This seminar will examine the function of the first person singular in two otherwise unrelated poetic texts: Shakespeare’s sonnets and Hölderlin’s Hymns. For both of these very different poets, the “I” occupies an often central position, which reflects a certain conception of poetry and its relation to the world.

Literature in Translation Courses

Phyllis Lyons  TTh 11:00-12:20

Phyllis Lyons  TTh 2:00-3:20

CLS 274-2/AMES 274-2: Chinese Literature in Translation: The Late Imperial Period
Bruce Knickerbocker  TTh 3:30-4:50