

**University of Göttingen**  
**World Literature: Theory and Concepts**  
**Semester 1, 2014-2015, Tuesdays 10:00-14:00**

*Note 1: The “Guest Lecture” date is tentative and may change, depending on the availability of invited guests. Note 2: a term paper is required for assessment. Students will be given themes relevant to the course to choose from and respond to in the form of an essay of 2000 words. Further details will be provided in due course.*

**Week 1: October 21**

**Topic:** Introduction: *Weltliteratur*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, “Conversations with Eckermann on *Weltliteratur* (1827)”, in *World Literature in Theory*, ed. David Damrosch, Harvard University Press, 2014, 15-21.

Karl Marx/Friedrich Engels, “Comunist Manifesto (1848)”, in: Friedrich Engels, *English Edition*, 1888, Gutenberg <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/61/pg61.html>

Eric Auerbach, “Philology and *Weltliteratur*”, trans. Maire and Edward Said, *The Centennial Review* 13/1 (1969), 1-17.

Suman Gupta, “The Globalization of Literature”, in *Globalization and Literature*, Polity Press, 2009, 151-170.

Theo D’haen, “Naming World Literature”, in *The Routledge Concise History of World Literature*, Routledge, 2012, 5-26.

**Week 2: October 28**

**Topic:** Reading Distantly

Franco Moretti, “Conjectures on World Literature”, *New Left Review* 1 (Jan-Feb 2000), 54-68.

Christopher Prendergast, “Negotiating World Literature”, *New Left Review* 8 (Mar-Apr 2001), 100-121.

Francesca Orsini, “India in the Mirror of World Fiction”, *New Left Review* 13 (Jan-Feb 2002), 75-88.

Jale Parla, “The Object of Comparison”, *Comparative Literature Studies*, Globalization and World Literature, 41/1 (2004), 116-125.

**Week 3: November 4**

**Topic:** Nations: Centers and Peripheries

Joep Leerssen, “Imagology: History and Method”, in *Imagology: The Cultural Construction and Literary Representation of National Characters*, ed. Manfred Beller and Joep Leerssen, Rodopi, 2007, 17-32.

Casanova, Pascale, “Principles of a World History of Literature”, in *The World Republic of Letters*, Harvard University Press, 2004, 9-44.

Roberto Schwarz, “Brazilian Culture: Nationalism by Elimination”, *New Left Review* 1/167 (Jan-Feb 1988), 77-90.

**Week 4: November 11**

**Topic:** The Humanist Tradition

David Damrosch, “Introduction: Goethe Coins a Phrase”, in *What is World Literature*, Princeton University Press, 2003, 1-38.

Theo D’haen, “Goethe’s *Weltliteratur* and the Humanist Tradition”, in *The Routledge Concise History of World Literature*, 2012, 27-46.

Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, "World Literature: History, Concept, Paradigm", in *Mapping World Literature: International Canonization and Transnational Literatures*, Bloomsbury, 2008, 5-32.

### **Week 5: November 18**

**Topic:** Translatability and Politics

Mary Louise Pratt, "Arts of the Contact Zone", *Profession*, 1990, 33-40.

Fredric Jameson, "Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism", *Social Text* 15 (1986), 65-88.

Aijaz Ahmad, "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the 'National Allegory'", *Social Text* 17 (1987), 3-25.

Emily Apter, "Global *Translatio*: The 'Invention' of Comparative Literature, Istanbul, 1933", *Critical Inquiry* 29/2 (2003), 253-281.

### **Week 6: November 25**

**Topic:** Postcolonial Theory

Roberto Schwarz, "Misplaced Ideas: Literature and Society in Late Nineteenth-Century Brazil", in *Misplaced Ideas: Essays on Brazilian Culture*, Verso, 1992, 19-32.

Aamir Mufti, "Orientalism and the Institution of World Literature", *Critical Inquiry* 36 (2010), 458-493.

Michael Allan, "How *Adab* became Literary: Formalism, Orientalism and the Institutions of World Literature", *Journal of Arabic Literature* 43/2-3 (2012), 172-196.

### **Week 7: December 2**

**Topic:** Translation and Literature

Johan Heilbron, "Towards a Sociology of Translation: Book Translations as a Cultural World-System", *European Journal of Social Theory* 2 (Nov 1999), 429-444.

Jose Lambert, "Literature, Translation and (De)colonization", in *Translation and Modernization*, eds Theresa M. Hyun and Jose Lambert, Tokyo University Press, 98-117.

Gisele Sapiro, "Translation as a Weapon in the Struggle Against Cultural Hegemony in the Era of Globalization", in *Bibliodiversity* (Feb 2014), 31-40.

Harish Trivedi, "Translating Culture vs. Cultural Translation", in *In Translation: Reflections, Refractions, Transformation*, eds. Paul St. Pierre and Prafulla C. Kar, John Benjamins, 2007, 277-288.

### **Week 8: December 9**

**Topic:** Literature? German, Chinese and Persian in translation

David Davies, "The Nature of Literature" and "What is a Literary Work", in *Aesthetics and Literature*, Bloomsbury, 2007, 1-31.

Andre Lefevre, "Mother Courage's Cucumbers: Text, System and Refraction in a Theory of Literature", *Modern Language Studies* 12/4 (3-20), 1982.

Stephen Owen, "What is World Poetry", *The New Republic*, Nov 19 (1990), 28-32.

Reynold Nicholson's and Coleman Barks' English translations of Rumi's poetry: text analysis.

### **Week 9: December 16**

**Topic:** Guest Lecturer

**Required reading:** TBA.

### Further Recommended Reading:

- Aijaz Ahmad, "The Communist Manifesto and World Literature", *Social Scientist* 28/7-8 (Jul-Aug 2000), 3-30.
- Bill Ashcroft, "Translation and Transformation", in *Caliban's Voice: The Transformation of English in Postcolonial Literatures*, Routledge, 2009, 159-182.
- Bruce Robbins, "Internationalism in Distress", in *Feeling Global: Internationalism in Distress*, New York University Press, 1999, 11-38.
- Charles Forsdick, "World Literature, *Littérature-Monde*: Which Literature? Whose World?", *Paragraph* 33/1 (2010), 125-143.
- Christopher Prendergast, ed., *Debating World Literature*, Verso, 2004.
- David Damrosch, "How American Is World Literature?", *The Comparatist* 33 (13-19), May 2009.
- David Damrosch, "Toward a History of World Literature", *New Literary History* 39/3 (2008), 481-495.
- David Damrosch, ed., *World Literature in Theory*, Harvard University Press, 2014.
- Efrain Kristal, "Considering Coldly: A Response to Franco Moretti", *New Left Review* 15 (May-Jun 2002), 61-74.
- Emily Apter, *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability*, London: Verso, 2013.
- Franco Moretti, "More Conjectures", *New Left Review* 20 (Apr-Mar 2003), 73-81.
- Franco Moretti, *Distant Reading*, London: Verso, 2013.
- Jonathan Arac, "Anglo-Globalism?", *New Left Review* 16 (Jul-Aug 2002), 35-45.
- Pascale Casanova, "Literature as World", *New Left Review* 31 (Jan-Feb 2005), 71-90.
- Pascale Casanova, *The World Republic of Letters*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Stephanos Stephanides, "Translatability of Memory in an Age of Globalization", *Comparative Literature Studies* 41/1 (2004), 101-115.
- Suman Gupta, *Globalization and Literature*, Polity Press, 2009.
- Theo D'haen, Cesar Dominguez and Mads Rosendhal Thomsen, eds, *World Literature: A Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Theo D'haen, David Damrosch, and Djelal Kadir, eds. *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*. London: Routledge, 2011.
- Ulrich Beck, "The Cosmopolitan Perspective: Sociology of the Second Age of Modernity", *British Journal of Sociology* 51/1 (2000), 79-105.
- Wang Ning, "World Literature and the Dynamic Function of Translation", *Modern Language Quarterly* 71/1 (Mar 2010), 1-14.
- Zhang Longxi, "The Fallacy of Cultural Incommensurability", in *Unexpected Affinities: Reading across Cultures*, Toronto University Press, 2007.