MCAS ITLM 262 syllabus

Course Title: Comparative Literature: Translations, Counterfeits and the Mediterranean Novels

Course Code and Number of Credits: MCAS ITLM 262 (3 CREDITS)

Course Description:

This is a course of comparative literature, with emphasis on contemporary novels of the Mediterranean area, and thematic focus on the building of a cultural Mediterranean identity throughout the ages. Through lectures, readings, class discussions, we will discover how literature plays with ideas of identity and nationality.

Prerequisites: None

Mandatory Fieldtrips:

Students will visit Palermo and in its places, monuments and piazze they will recognize the narrative space of The Council of Egypt.

Required Readings:

Umberto Eco, *Baudolino*, Mariner Books 2003. ISBN: 0151006903; Cost to be determined. José Saramago, *The History of the Siege of Lisbon*, Mariner Books 1998. ISBN: 0156006243; Cost to be determined. Leonardo Sciascia, *The Council of Egypt*, Carcanet Press Ltd, 1999. ISBN: 185754434X; Cost to be determined. Reader pack with critical essays

Additional Fees Payable on Site: None

Objectives:

- This course will introduce students to some masterpieces of our time and to critical category of Mediterranean literature.
- Students will study features and themes of each novel, and will develop a comparative reading of texts.
- They will gain an understanding of the role that contemporary literature plays in building a language, religion, nationality, in constructing and deconstructing identities.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 (20%)
- Mid-term Examination (25%)
- Paper 2 and Presentation (20%)
- Final Examination (25%)
- Participation (10%)

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the results of each assignment (see the percentages above), which will test their comprehension of the proposed issues and the development of the ability to read and critically interpret literary texts. Moreover, the final evaluation will consider students' participation in class discussions, their active contribution to the seminar presentation of themes and topics, their personal involvement in the class, the continuity of their work.

Country and Program Connection:

Besides providing an introduction to Comparative Literature in Mediterranean perspective, this courses includes, among other issues, the study of important topics concerning Sicily, its history, its society, its culture. Students will be stimulated to discuss these topics, to express their opinion, to relate what they learn about the country to the Sicilian reality they experience and to the broader Mediterranean environment.

Course Outline

Week 1	Class 1	Introduction to the course
	90 mins	Readings:
		Mallette Karla, Translations, Counterfeits and Modern Mediterranean Novel,
		Makdisi Lecture 2004 (pp. 1-2)
	Class 2	Lecture:
	90 mins	Introduction to Umberto Eco's narrative
		Readings:
		Thomas J. Rice, <i>Mapping Complexity in the fiction of Umberto Eco</i> , «Critique», 44, 4, 2003, pp. 349-368
Week 2	Class 3	Lecture:

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	90 mins	Baudolino, introduction and first reading
		Readings:
	1	Langer Adam, Italian Hero, «Book», 24, 2002, pp. 1-3
	Class 4	Baudolino
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 1
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Week 3	Class 5	Baudolino Reading and class discussion: part 2
	90 mins Class 6	Reading and class discussion: part 2 Baudolino
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 3
	30 111113	Neauling and class discussion. part 5
Week 4	Class 7	Baudolino
WOOK 1	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 4
	Class 8	Baudolino
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 5
Week 5	Class 9	Baudolino
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 6
	Class 10	Midterm review
	90 mins	
Week 6	Class	MIDTERM examination
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	180 mins	
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Week 7		Fall/Spring BREAK
Week 8	Class 13	Loctures
vveeko	90 mins	Lecture: Introduction to José Saramago's narrative
	90 111113	Readings:
		Chaves Tesser Carmen, <i>A tribute to José Saramago</i> , «Hispania», March 1999,
		pp. 2-28
	Class 14	The History of the Siege of Lisbon
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 1
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Week 9	Class 15	The History of the Siege of Lisbon
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 2
	Class 16	The History of the Siege of Lisbon
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 3
Week 10	Class 17	The History of the Siege of Lisbon
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 4
	Class 18	The History of the Siege of Lisbon
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 5
Week 11	Class 19	Lecture:
VVEEKII	90 mins	Introduction to Leonardo Sciascia's historical narrative
	30 111113	Readings:
		Springer Carolyne, <i>History, Fantasy and Fraud: the Status of Historical</i>
		Representation in Sciascia's Il Consiglio d'Egitto, «Italica» 66, 2, 1989, pp. 176-
		185
	Class 20	The Council of Egypt
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 1
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Week 12	Class 21	The Council of Egypt
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 2
	Class 22	The Council of Egypt
	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 3
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Week 13	Class 23	The Council of Egypt

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	90 mins	Reading and class discussion: part 4 Readings: Kwa Shiamin, Symmetry and the Quest for Justice in Leonardo Sciascia's Il Consiglio d'Egitto, «Italica» 80, 3, 2003, pp. 353-370 Film and class discussion:
	90 mins	Il Consiglio d'Egitto by Emidio Greco
Week 14	Class 25 90 mins	Research paper presentations
	Class 26 90 mins	Review session for Final examination
Week 15	Class 27 180 mins	FINAL examination
		Fieldtrip requirements: If the proposed class includes any fieldtrips give the details below. ALL classes are required to conduct 45 hours of class time. Instructors are free to add up to 15 hours worth of fieldtrips to this total. Fieldtrip hours should be calculated in the following way: (a) a half-day fieldtrip corresponds to 90 paid mins. (b) a full-day fieldtrip corresponds to 180 pain mins.
		A fieldtrip is included in this class: students will visit Palermo and in its places, monuments and <i>piazze</i> they will recognize the narrative space of <i>The Council of Egypt</i> .