

Friends of Comparative Literature



TO AUTUMN

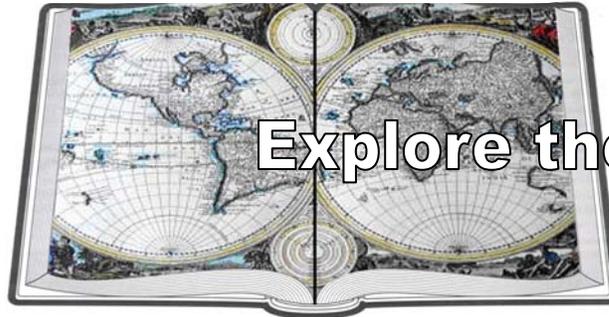
by William Blake

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.
"The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her
head.
"The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees."
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.



*Department of French,
Italian and Comparative
Literature
Curtin Hall 772
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: 414-229-4382
Fax: 414-229-2939*

(Editor: Daniel Russell)



Explore the World

News from the Coordinator, Caroline Seymour-Jorn

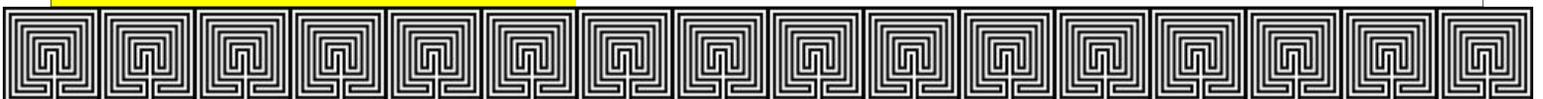
The fall semester is off to a great start in the Comparative Literature program! Members of the program faculty are busy working on a variety of activities, from teaching newly designed courses to leading a study abroad program in Paris.

The Comparative Literature program is also growing, with increasing numbers of students declaring both Comparative Literature majors and minors in recent years. We think that this is a great testimony to the value of the discipline in preparing students for future graduate studies, job opportunities and for life.

Be sure to take a look at the Comparative Literature course descriptions for Spring 2011. Program faculty are offering a great set of courses with the usual diversity of topic matter and geographical foci.

For those of you with interests in the Middle East and Islamic Studies, please make sure that you take a look at the list of Middle East extra-curricular programming being offered on campus this semester, noted in the announcements section of the newsletter.

I wish everyone a great fall and I hope to see you on the 7th floor!



Comp Lit News

Joshua Hren Joshua published a poem, "A Story in Ashes," in *Dappled Things*, a short story, "The Porch," in *Twisted Ink*. His story "Wrecking Ball" received an Honorable Mention under Glimmer Train's Short Story Award for new writers. Joshua also presented "Cloaked Kings, Revealed Brothers" at the Colloquium on Violence and Religion held during Summer of 2010, and "Sovereign Democracy and the Political Theology of Authority" at a conference on Scholasticism and Politics at Walsh University (North Canton, Ohio) in October of 2010. A chapter of his novel, *In the Wine Press* is forthcoming in *Dappled Things* (November 2010) and a portion of the rest will be published serially during 2011. The novel follows fictionalized characters based on Jacques Maritain, Simone Weil, Georges Rouault, Andre Devigny and others as they forge resistances in (and in exile from) occupied France.

Kristin Pitt : Kristin received a Global Studies Research Fellowship from UWM's Center for International Education (CIE) for 2010-2011 to help support her research on representations of immigration and the body in contemporary literature and film. She presented part of this research at the 2nd International Conference on Caribbean Studies at Marquette university in October 2010, and she will present additional aspects of this project at the Midwest Modern Language Association 2010 Convention in Chicago in November, as well as at two upcoming events at UWM: a CIE faculty colloquium on December 17, 2010, and "Eating, Cooking, Culture: The Politics and History of Food," a CIE conference in April, 2011. Kristin's forthcoming book, *Body, Nation, and Narrative in the Americas*, is scheduled to be released by Palgrave Macmillan on December 21, 2010.

David Reher: David spent the summer in Costa Rica taking a course on the works of Gabriel García Márquez, exploring such themes as Latin identity and European vs. New World perspectives and thought. The course included works like *Cien años de soledad*, *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba*, and many shorter works. Lectures and discussions drew from nearly all of García Márquez' publications.

Daniel Russell: Moriya Vanderhoef (yes, she is the sister of John Vanderhoef who used to work in the department in the seat now occupied by his brother-in-law) and Daniel Russell were married on Sept. 3, 2010.

Peter Paik: Congratulations to Peter! *From Utopia to Apocalypse: Science Fiction and the Politics of Catastrophe*, a 2010 book by French, Italian, and Comparative Literature Associate Professor Peter Paik, has been selected as an Editor's Pick by Choice Reviews Online. <http://www.cro2.org/default.aspx?page=reviewdisplay&pids=3582612>.

Alumnus Profile- Nick Poulos



After I received my Master's, instead of going to North Carolina or Indiana (both had accepted me), I went into business. I served as president of a marketing services firm, the 6th largest "Incentive Company" in the US and moved to Detroit. I did join a large publicly held consulting firm as a partner but have been a sole practitioner more or less since 9/11 - with a sad foray into mortgage banking for 4 yrs with JPMorgan Chase. Today, I blog, tweet, and look for work, while enjoying my 3 young daughters 10, 12, & 14 as a single Dad - am even getting ready to go talk to the 6th grade class at Tamarack Waldorf School on Brady this Friday about Homer(!).

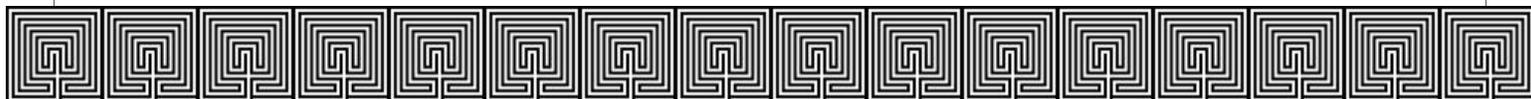
Frankly, Comp Lit gave me outstanding skills for life and for the corporate world. Any claim to relative skill in critical thinking and accurate, penetrating, successful analysis I owe to Roy Swanson as well as to people like Davy Carozza, Bruce Strark, Melvin Friedman, Florence Walzl, and Rachel Skalitzky. Comp Lit gave a clear methodology for approaching the world in which I had to work and it gave me tools with which to excel. Comp Lit taught me to be an analyst, diagnostician, strategist, and comparatist. Comp Lit informs every part of life. In fact, combined with a lot of classical coursework and critical theory work combined again with Levi Strauss and Derrida combined with some activity-based accounting work I did at the B-school, combined with a lot of thinking about the issue of "translation" that most informed my everyday work. Comp Lit: I think it's "da Bomb"!

Student Spotlight—Stephanie Butler



I transferred to UWM from a writing intensive school on the east coast, so I began taking CompLit courses to continue the literature study I started my freshman year. By the time I figured out how much I liked CompLit, I was not at a good point to change my major. I decided to minor in CompLit so that if I had a chance at some point I could pick it up again. I graduated from law school in 2007 and after trying to start a career in the law I decided to spend a year teaching English in Yanliang, China. Unfortunately I was not able to complete this year due to illness, and when I sat down to think about what I would do next I realized that this was a good time to come back to UWM and study CompLit again.

What I love about CompLit is the exposure to authors and films that I would never have found on my own. CompLit has definitely played a role in the books I read and the films I watch. I always complain that there are so many books to read and not enough time to read them and this is a great way to solve that problem!



Favorite Literary Quotes

"A Classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say." - Italo Calvino
"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." and "A home without books is a body without a soul." - Cicero
"Whoever doesn't have the courage to make history is doomed to become its object. We have to take action." - Alfred Delp, SJ
"War is father of all, king of all. Some it makes gods, some it makes men, some it makes slaves, some free." Heraclitus
"A house without books is like room without windows." - Horace Mann

Announcements

Middle Eastern/North African Studies Certificate Program Presents:

November 3, 3:00 pm, Farouk Mustafa, Univ. of Chicago. *Modern Arabic Fiction in Egypt*. American Geographical Society Library. 3rd floor, east wing, UWM Golda Meir Library, 2311 E. Hartford Ave.

November 11, 7:00 pm, Homa Hoodfar, Concordia University, Canada. *Women, Religion and Presidential Politics in the Islamic Republic (Iran)* Library Conference Center 4th floor, west wing, UWM Golda Meir Library 2311 E. Hartford Ave.

November 17, 7:30 pm, Marquette University. *Homeland Insecurity: American Muslims*. Hefter Center, southwest corner of Lake Drive and Hartford Ave.

Let's Have A Party! A Pre-End-of-the-Semester party is being planned to fete the Majors and Minors (Current and Graduates) in Comparative Literature. It will be a good time to relax with fellow ComplLit majors/minors and with the faculty and staff.
December 6th at 4:00-5:30 pm Curtin 766.

Find Us on Facebook: The Comparative Literature Program is now on Facebook! Follow 'Comparative Literature at UWM' to receive updates on the latest news and events.

Roy Arthur Swanson Merit Scholarship in Comparative Literature

We congratulate the majors and minors who received the 2010-11 RASCL Scholarship as reward for academic excellence (αρετή).



Nicholas Robarge



Justin Ramm



Roy Arthur Swanson,
Professor Emeritus



Steve Heimerl



David Schiff

ComplLit is the lens through which I examine and critique literature, history and society with unique precision. the staff represents a rare breed of talent: helpful, challenging and motivating are qualities hard to come by. -Robarge

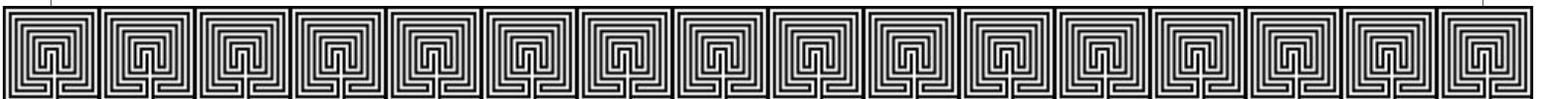
ComplLit has proven to be uniquely engaging and rewarding, and my mentors within the department have challenged me to reflect deeply on my own writing, making connections across the myriad genres of film, philosophy, poetry, and visual art. -Ramm

ComplLit plays an important role in my studies. It guides me in looking at issues with many perspectives and helps me appreciate and understand other cultures. ComplLit is crucial to a well rounded education. -Heimerl

ComplLit has been everything I expected and much more. Through the power of reading I can travel back in time to the Far East, to France before, during and after the revolution or to South America. I can witness first hand accounts of what building great nations was about. -Schiff

Invitation to Consider a Comparative Literature Major or Minor

Comparative Literature is a discipline that will complement whatever course of study students choose and will be an impressive addition to any Résumé. The skills learned in Comparative Literature classes will benefit beyond reading literature for enjoyment to reading and analyzing journals, history, etc. We would invite you to consider ComplLit as a Major (36 Credits of ComplLit courses) or Minor (18 Credits of ComplLit courses). For more information, talk with your instructor or ask the staff in Curtin 772.



Requiescat in Pace



Martha Fingleton died June 17, 2010. Her beloved husband followed her in death eight days later. Martha was a teaching assistant and working on a her master's in Comparative Literature and Philosophy. Martha attended Complit 133 for several semesters and participated enthusiastically in the class discussions. She then worked with the Tutoring Center in giving extra help to the students in preparation for their exams. The students who attended the classes and those who went to her tutoring sessions spoke very highly of her intelligence and her understanding.

She attended Comparative Literature classes through the Fall of 2009. The last class was Michelle Bolduc's course on Existentialism. As always, she was an enthusiastic student. Her health was rapidly deteriorating, but she, like a true existential hero, attended as many of the classes as she could. She was an inspiration as she shared her knowledge, her courage and her wisdom. Martha has left her enthusiasm and her smile as an imprint on Complit. We are grateful for the life she shared with us.

Comp Lit Conversation over Lunch

In the Fall of 2007 we began the "Conversation over Lunch" series. The word "conversation" is an interesting word deriving from two Latin components: *con*=with+*versare*=to turn. Conversation can be understood as "to turn around with" another person in considering a topic or, in a more romantic understanding it can be understood as "a verbal dancing with another."

Our Fall Conversation over Lunch will take place **Wednesday, December 1st at 12 noon in Curtin 766**. The topic for Conversation will be: "Can Complit make you rich?" or "The role of Comparative Literature in Society: Healing the Future." The moderator will be Michael Fountain.

Comp Lit Goes to the Movies

The Age of Atrocities- We will be showing Roland Joffé's 1984 Academy Award winning film *The Killing Fields*.



The Killing Fields will be shown in two parts:

Part 1 - Tuesday, November 9, 2010, noon Union Room 240

Part 2. - Thursday, November 11, 2010, noon Union Room 191

When the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh in 1975, many thought the killing would end. Instead it started a long nightmare in which three million Cambodians would die in the "killing fields."

The Killing Fields is an epic story of friendship and survival...Sam Waterson plays Sydney Schanberg, whose war coverage entraps him and other journalists. Dr. Haing S. Ngor is Dith Pran, Schanberg's aide and friend who saves them from execution. But Pran is sentenced to labor camps, enduring starvation and torture before escaping to Thailand. Ngor also endured Khmer Rouge atrocities and saw his moving, Academy Award winning portrayal of Pran as a way of bringing his nation's tragic ordeal to light. —from the DVD back cover.

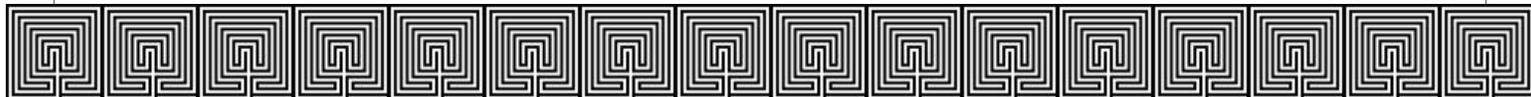
Book Recommendations

Edwidge Danticat's recent book of essays, *Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work*. In this moving collection Danticat reflects on such vital concerns as the role of writing and the position of immigrants in contemporary society. The text opens with the essay upon which Danticat's November, 2009 speech as a part of UWM's Distinguished Lecture Series was based. (Recommended by Kristin Pitt)

Two stories of escape: one a novel that is almost a memoir and the other a memoir that is almost an adventure novel:

Two Women by Alberto Moravia (1957) is the story of a mother trying to protect her daughter when the Germans occupy Rome. It is a fictional account closely parallel to the author's and his wife's experience of eight months hiding from the Fascists during WWII.

Trek by Mary Hunt Jentsch (2008) is the story of an American mother living in Germany with her two half German children. When the bombing of Berlin was over and she was separated from her husband, she had to flee with her children to stay one step ahead of the Russian Army. She headed toward the Pomeranian countryside in search of food, shelter and safety. (Recommended by Michael Fountain)



Spring 2011 Course Offerings

133 Contemporary Imagination in Literature and the Arts 3cr (U)

Class Number 18546 Lec001 MWF 11-11:50am (Fountain)

Class Number 21330 Lec203 ONLINE (Fountain)

The goal of this course is to present the student with basic knowledge of the literary movements, authors, and texts of the 20th Century. This course will introduce Comparative Literature as a discipline. The students will read canonical texts and define basic terms used in the study of the humanities, practice literary analysis/criticism, and gain an appreciation for the problems involved in literary translation. Requirements will include reading the assigned material, class attendance, participation and assignments.

Class Number 18547 Lec002 TR 11am-12:15pm (Xu)

This course covers most literary genres (novel, drama, poetry, short story, novellas, essay) and major art forms of the 20th century. We will explore how narrative, lyrical, and expository writings and the arts have been variously used in different parts of the world to create modern and postmodern emotions, thoughts, and subjectivities in response to the enlightenment ideals, end-of-era anxieties, wars, colonialism, postcolonial conditions, and late capitalism. Objectives of the course include gaining general knowledge of 20th-century world literature and the arts in their historical and geopolitical context, learning about different critical approaches, and developing critical skills in interpreting literature and the arts. This course satisfies the L&S International requirement and the Humanities Requirement.

135: Experiencing Literature in the 21st Century 3cr(U)

Class Number 21329 Lec001 MW 12:30-1:45pm (Russell)

Topic: Narratives of the Apocalypse

This class will read, view, and discuss different types of texts dealing with the end of the world, in a literal sense, as well as the ends of specific cultural or social orders, from the Bible to recent films. How do visions of the apocalypse affect or represent the values of human behavior in the past? What kind of influence does the mingling of the hope for renewal and the fear of the end have on our culture in the present, and what does it say about our most deeply cherished beliefs? What kinds of historical or fictional situations convey most forcefully the emotions and actions of people confronted with sweeping change, the end of history, and the daily struggle to survive drastically altered circumstances or define one's own humanity *after* the end? Texts may include: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, *In the Country of Last Things* by Paul Auster, *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* by Max Brooks, *Watchmen* by Alan Moore, and *Therefore Repent!* by Jim Munroe. Screening of the films: *28 Days Later*, *Time of the Wolf*, *Children of Men*. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement.

208: World Literature in Translation: The 17th to the 21st Century 3cr (U)

Class Number 18548 Lec201 ONLINE (Pitt)

Course Focus: Global Encounters: Cultural Contact and Exchange. In this age of globalization, we recognize that we are increasingly interconnected with societies and peoples around the globe. But what constitutes such connections? What are the possibilities, the difficulties, and the conflicts associated with cross-cultural contact and exchange? This course will survey literary forms from the 17th to the 21st centuries and from a wide range of global perspectives. Texts will include novels, poems, plays, essays and films that portray the negotiations, understandings, and misunderstandings of "contact zones" and other sites of cultural exchange. Course offered entirely online. Satisfies L&S International requirement and the Humanities requirement. Affiliated with Cultures & Communities and Great Books.

230 Literature and Society 3cr(U)

Class Number 21908 Lec001 TR 9:30-10:45am (Fountain)

Topic: Narratives of Escape: WWII

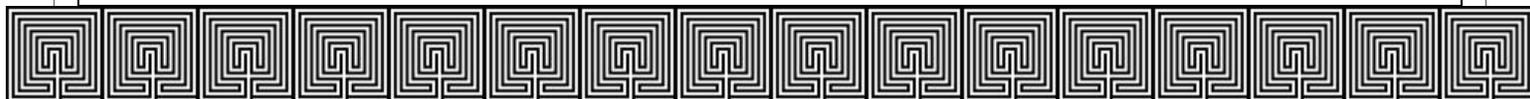
This course will consider Narratives of Escape using the Comparative Literature method of analysis and criticism. We will consider the content and structure of these narratives from occupied France, Poland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and Italy. The required readings will all be from Nazi Era accounts while the final project will involve some familiarity with Narratives of Escape from other geographies and time periods, e.g. the *Exodus*, the flight of Elisa (*Uncle Tom's Cabin*), the flight of the Vietnam Boat People, etc. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement.

231 Literature and Religion 3cr(U)

Class Number 26078 Lec001 MWF 9-9:50am (Fountain)

Topic: Famous Trials in Literature, Art and Film

Artists have added their perspective and skills in recording famous trials since the beginning of history. This course will survey these trials applying methods common to Comparative Literature. We will observe the transition from journalistic reporting to historical account to artistic narrative. We will also consider the cultural and social importance of trial representations: education, edification and/or entertainment? This course satisfies the Humanities requirement.



Fall 2010 Course Offerings

233 Literature and Film 3cr(U)

Class Number 21894 Lec001 TR 2-3:15pm (Xu)

Topic: The Gangster Film in the East and West

This class will study the gangster film as a genre originating in America and how after traveling to other parts of the world, especially Asia, it undergoes interesting changes while retaining important generic features. Although as in other continents the genre has been frequently bent, hybridized, or parodied to fit the cultural needs of the local, its transplant has also made it truly global. By comparing Asian gangsters with their Western counterparts in theme, style, visual content, and social function, we want to find out what common qualities bind them. A good knowledge of how this popular cultural form travels and finds home in the East may lead to a deepened understanding about the processes of global modernity that has been inexorably transforming the spatial and temporal structures of our lives. Our objectives are to learn to analyze film texts from different parts of the world with a comparative approach, and to learn to construct interpretive arguments that are clear, coherent, persuasive, and well organized. The course satisfies the Humanities requirement.

333 Dante's Divine Comedy in Translation 3cr(U/G)

Class Number 25098 Lec001 TR 2-3:15pm (Bolduc)

This course will provide a close examination of the three canticles of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, tracing the voyage of the pilgrim from Hell, Purgatory, and finally to Heaven. It will be complemented by an exploration of visual resonances of the *Divine Comedy* in manuscript painting, frescoes, and film.

350 Topics in Comparative Literature 3cr(U/G)

Class Number 26596 Lec001 TR 12:30-1:45pm (Paik)

Topic: Love and Death in the Modern European Novel

In this class we will read narratives by major European authors of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The course will focus on the role of desire and ambition in the formation of the modern European subject, examining such conflicts as those between the moral law and the romantic passion, Christianity and secularism, the aristocracy and the middle class, and social convention and individual authenticity. The question of what constitutes realism in literature will also be a major concern of class discussion. The readings for the class will include: *Persuasion* (1818) by Jane Austen, *Elective Affinities* (1809) by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Red and the Black* (1830) by Stendhal, *Sentimental Education* (1869) by Gustave Flaubert, *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1889) by Leo Tolstoy, and *Five Women* (1924) by Robert Musil.

463 Literary Criticism: Major Authors 3cr(U/G)

Class Number 25176 Lec001 MW 12:30-1:45pm (Seymour-Jorn)

The concept of culture has become a complicated and vexed one for scholars in the humanities, in anthropology and sociology. Scholars in these fields have looked to other disciplines in order to think about representing and defining cultures. The "literary turn" in anthropology has concerned itself with the modes and politics of ethnographic representation. At the same time, literary writers have been experimenting with ethnographic approaches in their writing. Increasingly, anthropologists and other social scientists look to literature as a mode of knowledge about culture. This is particularly true as scholars attempt to think not only about representing the "other" but also understanding how the "other" looks back. This course will examine the convergence of literature and anthropology and will examine questions such as: To what extent is anthropology now literary? To what extent is literature ethnographic and what does this mean for our growing understandings of inter cultural understanding?

704 Seminar in Cultural Studies 3cr(G)

Class Number 25097 Sem001 R 4:30-7:10pm (Bolduc)

This course explores the medieval notion of 'translatio' and its relationship to mythologies and narrative, to history and invention, centering on the story of Troilus and its many incarnations from Antiquity through the late Middle Ages. Beginning with the fragmentary Greek and Latin myths of Troilus, we turn to the Old French writer Benoit de Sainte-Maure and his Roman de Troie, Boccaccio's *Il Filostrato*, Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*, and the Scot writer Robert Henryson's *Testament of Cresseid*. Theory—theories of history and historiography (e.g., Ricoeur, de Certeau, Foucault, White) as well as medieval theories of translation—will accompany our readings of the primary texts.

