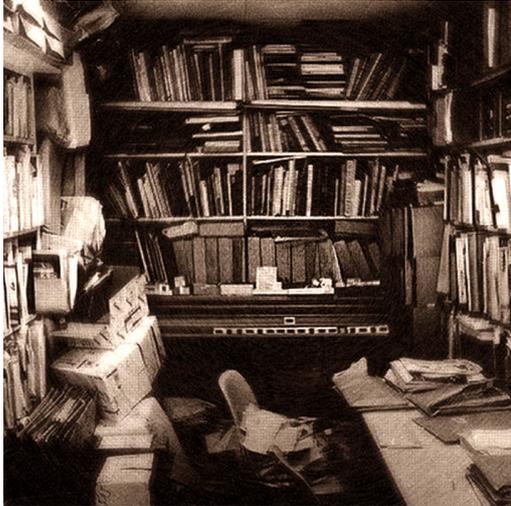


COURSE DESCRIPTION

Reading Across Literatures:

Multilingualism, Translation and Comparison (TYA709), 7,5 ECTS.



What happens when an author switches language or decides to combine multiple tongues in his or her works? Can we appreciate poems written in a language that we do not understand? This course examines the relationship between literature and multilingualism, introducing current theories on literary multilingualism and translation.

In addition to the theoretical focus, a selection of literary works in different languages (read in original or in translation depending on the students' specializations) will be studied in detail.

The comparative focus of the course aims to highlight the crucial role of multilingualism and translation in the production and reception of literature of the 20th and early-21st century

Intended Learning Outcomes:

To pass the course, the student should be able to:

- characterize and discuss central concepts and issues in literary multilingualism
- analyze and critically reflect on literary multilingualism and translation in different linguistic contexts
- independently and critically analyze fictional texts using the course's theoretical framework

Teaching

The teaching consists of 5 seminars: A first introductory lecture/seminar (1,5 h) followed by three three-hour seminars. The course will conclude with a final seminar/summary seminar (1,5 h). The language of instruction will be English.

Seminars are intended to be active, hands-on opportunities for students to practice the skills they will learn throughout the course; for this reason, the students should bring the assigned text(s) with them to every seminar.

The third seminar (29 April) dedicated to the topic of world literature will feature a guest lecture and seminar led by world **professor Elisabeth Hermann**, University of Warwick.

Remember to visit the course site in Athena for additional information, access to secondary source material, additional instructions etc.

Requirements

Before each seminar (including the first), students are expected to finish the assigned reading and do any accompanying tasks. Students should be prepared to discuss the reading and tasks at the seminar.

Attendance is compulsory. Missed seminars requires the completion of additional assignments.

Examination

Students are required to complete the following assignments in order to receive a grade:

- *One oral presentation:* a presentation (in English) of a secondary source text (summary of argument, empirical examples, theoretical framework), approx. 10 minutes, as an introduction to the joint seminar discussion.
- *A written assignment:* an essay (in English, Swedish or German) of approx. 2500 words, which must make reference to at least two primary sources and at least three secondary sources.

Grading

The course adopts the 7-grade SU scale.

To receive a passing grade (A to E), students must complete the written assignment, the oral presentation/introduction of a secondary source text and demonstrate that they achieved all the learning outcomes at least at the minimum level.

Separate grading criteria will be provided at the beginning of the course in Athena.

Required reading

The four literary texts (three novels, one collection of poetry) to be read and discussed in the course all employ multilingual elements in some way or another, displaying a rich variety of forms and functions of multilingualism in literature, which will be discussed in the seminars. All titles can be ordered through adlibris.se and normally arrive within a week. Titles may also be available through city or university libraries.

Bergvall, Caroline, *Meddle English: new and selected texts*, Nightboat Books, Callicoon, NY, 2011 (167 p)

Sebald, W. G., *Austerlitz*, Carl Hanser, München, 2001 (416 p)
English translation: *Austerlitz*, transl. Anthea Bell, Random House, New York, 2001 (414 p)

Pascual Söderbaum, Caterina, *Den skeva platsen: roman*, Bonnier, Stockholm, 2016 (407 p)
English translation: *The oblique place*, transl. Frank Perry, Maclehorse Press, London, 2018 (425 p)

Cole, Teju: *Open city: a novel*, Random House, New York, 2011 (259 p)

List of secondary sources/theory (preliminary, most texts will be available as pdf-files in Athena)

Helgesson, Stefan, “Translation: Duration and Cosmopolitan Reading”, *Literature and the World*, Stefan Helgesson & Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Routledge 2020, pp. 131–151.

Kauranen, Ralf, Huss, Markus & Grönstrand, Heidi, “Introduction: The Processes and Practices of Multilingualism in Literature”, *The Aesthetics and Politics of Linguistic Borders*, Routledge, pp. 3–23.

Knauth, K. Alfons Knauth, “Literary Multilingualism I: General Outlines and Western World”, *Comparative Literature: Sharing Knowledges for Preserving Cultural Diversity*. In *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*, Eolss Publishers 2009. (23 pages)

Pratt, Marie-Louise, “Comparative Literature and the Global Languagescape”, *A Companion to Comparative Literature*, eds. Ali Behdad, & Dominic Richard David Thomas, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, pp. 273–295.

Taylor-Batty, Juliette, *Multilingualism in Modernist Fiction*, Palgrave Macmillan Limited, 2013, pp. 16–38.

Yildiz, Yasemin, “Beyond the Mother Tongue? Multilingual Practices and the Monolingual Paradigm”, *Beyond the Mother Tongue: The Postmonolingual Condition*, Fordham University Press, 2011, pp. 1–29.

Walkowitz, Rebecca L., *Born Translated: the Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature*, Columbia University Press, 2015, pp. 1–48.

Wirth-Nesher, Hana, “Encountering English”, *The Cambridge History of Jewish American Literature*, 2015, pp. 41–61.

Seminars

Seminar 1	Introduction Theory: Yildiz, Pratt
Seminar 2	Poetry, poetical essay: Bergvall, <i>Meddle English</i> Theory: Wirth-Nesher, Kauranen et al
Seminar 3	Novel: Sebald: <i>Austerlitz</i> (German or English translation) Theory: Walkowitz Guest lecture by prof. Elisabeth Hermann
Seminar 4	Novel: Pascual Söderbaum: <i>Den skeva platsen / The Oblique Place</i> (Swedish or English translation) Theory: Helgesson
Seminar 5	Novel: Teju Cole: <i>Open City</i> Theory: Knauth, Taylor-Batty