

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: LITERATURE & GLOBALISATION		
MODULE CODE	EN2904 (L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims:

- Introduce students to the discipline of Comparative Literature, as a set of theories and methods with its own history and as a practice which compares literatures across linguistic and national boundaries.
- Explore Comparative Literature as a methodology which encourages an inter-disciplinary approach, enabling students to compare literary texts with work accomplished in other fields of cultural production, e.g. cinema and the visual arts, dance, &c.
- Encourage students to improve their understanding of their own culture and other cultures, and to develop their ability to analyse texts closely in a cross-cultural and non-Eurocentric context.
- Enable students to compare and discuss representations of gender, sexuality, race, class, religion and mythology across linguistic and national boundaries, and drawn from a variety of historical contexts.
- Encourage students to engage with key developments in literatures from a global perspective.
- Enhance students' research, writing and oral presentation skills.
- Develop skills in assessing useful resources, in both print and digital formats.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will introduce students to the practice of Comparative Literature and, through this particular discipline, the module will explore the role of languages, cultures and history in a global context as they inform the artistic productions of culturally diverse nations. It will involve detailed study of some highly distinctive cultural products and practices and will aim to challenge some ingrained cultural assumptions and presumptions about our 'Others' – those subjects most often represented 'for' us by writers from a similar background to our own. In developing an awareness of the colonial context for the discipline of comparative literature, this module will aim, as far as possible, to have 'the Other' speak for herself, through the study of texts in English translation, while maintaining awareness concerning the ethical issues and methodological limits involved in such a project.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Confirm their possession of a firm grasp of the ethos and methodology of Comparative Literature.
2.	Perform a persuasive close analysis of comparable but culturally diverse texts.
3.	Work individually and in groups to investigate the relations between cultural productions of very different times and places.
4.	Exhibit the appropriate use of academic discourse in the accomplishment of written assignments and seminar discussions.

5.	Prove, in their written assignments and their oral discussions, that they have a sensitive and thorough understanding of the importance of issues such as history, class, gender and race to the comparative study of global literatures.
6.	Understand how to conduct research to enhance their independent study.

TEACHING METHODS

This module will be delivered on a weekly basis, with regular lecture, seminar and workshop slots. The lectures will introduce topics and outline the most important debates surrounding the texts selected for discussion. The seminars will provide the opportunity for more detailed discussion of this material. The workshops will encourage group discussion and topic-related activities, and will also provide an opportunity to exhibit primary material (e.g. showing films) and to provide you with an overview of secondary material, such as important essays by experts in the field of comparative literature.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: In common with all other English modules, this module is designed to foster an active, participatory, independent approach to learning, to develop critical faculties and to consolidate and develop written and oral communication skills, and to develop a considerate cultural awareness and sensitivity to the backgrounds and beliefs of those around you. You will acquire important skills in the gathering and assessment of research materials; close reading skills; the ability to formulate a logical and sustained argument, orally and in writing; and the ability to meet deadlines comfortably.

Assessment

You are required to complete two pieces of assessment for this module. Your first assessment will be an essay set at a relatively early stage of the module, to test your knowledge and understanding of the material to which you have been introduced in the first half of the semester. Your second assessment in the form of a longer essay expects you to demonstrate your ability to conduct extra research, to build on the lectures, seminars and workshops in order to extend your abilities in independent learning. You should, in this essay, make sure you respond to the feedback given to you in your previous work.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through 2 essays (40% & 60%).