

Comparative Literature 202
Spring 2005
Michael Palencia-Roth
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 – 5 p.m. and by appointment
Location: 3030 FLB
Phone: 244-2709
email: palencia@uiuc.edu

Comparative Literature 202 explores the interface between literature and ideas in the modern western heritage. We read five seminal thinkers all semester long, thinkers whose ideas and methods have contributed much both to literature and to its interpreters. The thinkers studied this semester are: Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Simone de Beauvoir, and Mikhail Bakhtin. After two days devoted to the intellectual background of modern western thought, we will wrestle directly with the thought and language of each of these thinkers. Within two weeks, in consultation with me, each student will choose for an independent study in depth a major western author, will read that author (and about that author) all semester long, will meet with me privately and, toward the end of the semester, will write a 15-20 page paper on that author in relation to one or more of the five thinkers studied. I will guide each student through this process from beginning to end. Also, students are asked to keep an “intellectual journal” throughout the semester and to hand that journal in to me periodically for my commentary. I will give instructions on the form of the journal later on. There will be no midterm, but there will be two in-class themes on subjects given out beforehand, and there will be a final examination.

Week 1:

Tuesday, 1/18/2005 – Introduction. Thursday, 1/20/2005 – Background

Week 2:

Tuesday, 2/25/2005 – Karl Marx, *The Portable Marx*, pp. 10-11; 11-17; 131-152; 155-158.
Thursday, 2/27/2005 – Karl Marx, *The Portable Marx*, pp. 203-241; 173-179

Week 3:

Tuesday, 2/1/2005 – Karl Marx, *The Portable Marx*, pp. 369-374; 375-394
Thursday, 2/3/2005 – Karl Marx, *The Portable Marx*, pp. 432-465; Selected terms from “The Reader’s Guide,” pp. 558-573.

Week 4:

Tuesday, 2/8/2005 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings of Nietzsche* – from *The Birth of Tragedy*, pp. 17-27; 56-98.
Thursday, 2/10/2005 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings of Nietzsche* – from *Beyond Good and Evil*, pp. 192-266; 391-427.

Week 5:

Tuesday, 2/15/2005 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings of Nietzsche* – “Seventy-Five Aphorisms,” pp. 146-178; from *Ecce Homo*, pp. 673-725.
Thursday, 2/17/2005 – Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings of Nietzsche* – from *Ecce Homo*, pp. 726-791.

Week 6:

Tuesday, 2/22/2005 – In-class essay/ Marx & Nietzsche
Thursday, 2/24/2005 – Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* # 1-4

Week 7:

Tuesday, 3/1/2005 – Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* # 5-10; Read concurrently, beginning on second day of Freud: Sigmund Freud, *An Outline of Psychoanalysis* (all)

Thursday, 3/3/2005 – Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* # 11-15

Week 8:

Tuesday, 3/8/2005 – Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* # 16-21; & 27

Thursday, 3/10/2005 – Free (ACLA)

Week 9:

Thursday, 3/17/2005 – Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 3-64; 87-102.

Tuesday, 3/15/2005 – Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 147-211; 267-278

SPRING BREAK

Week 10:

Tuesday, 3/29/2005 – Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 281-307; 345-361, 390-424; 425-436.

Thursday, 3/31/2005 – Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 628-660; 712-767

Week 11:

Tuesday, 4/5/2005 – Mikhail Bakhtin, “Response to a Question from the *Novy Mir* Editorial Staff,” *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*, pp. 1-9. Also, “Epic and Novel,” *The Dialogic Imagination*, pp. 3-40.

Thursday, 4/7/2005 – Mikhail Bakhtin, “Discourse in the Novel,” *The Dialogic Imagination*, pp. 259-366..

Week 12:

Tuesday, 4/12/2005 – In-class essay / Freud and Beauvoir [Paris]

Thursday, 4/14/2005 – Mikhail Bakhtin, “Discourse in the Novel,” *The Dialogic Imagination*, pp. 366-422.

Week 13:

Tuesday, 4/19/2005 – Mikhail Bakhtin, from *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*: “The Problem of Speech Genres,” pp. 60-102; “The Problem of the Text in Linguistics, Philology and the Human Sciences,” pp. 103-131

Thursday, 4/21/2005 – Presentations

Week 14:

Tuesday, 4/26/2005 – Presentations Thursday, 4/28/2005 – Presentations

Week 15:

Tuesday, 4/3/2005 – Presentations and last day of class

Requirements and policies:

Journals: 15%

Two in-class themes: 30%

Term paper: 30%

Final exam: 15%

Oral explication exercises and participation: 10%

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 13, 1:30 – 4:30