UCLouvain

Ifial2230

2018

## Questions of General and Comparative Literature

5 credits 22.5 h Q1

| Teacher(s)                  | Dufays Sophie ;   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Language :                  | French  |
| Place of the course         | Louvain-la-Neuve  |
| Main themes                 | <ol> <li>Introduction to the history of the discipline, its theoretical framework, methodologies and subfields through the teaching of specific research instruments.</li> <li>Provide an example of a completed study in comparative literature.</li> </ol>  |
| Aims                        | Analyze one period and one or more streams of European literature using a comparative perspective. Provide students with a basic understanding of this period and streams of literature, placing the latter in the broader context of the connections that European culture has progressively established across different countries, constituting a unique civilization sharing common evidence, references and connivances. Familiarize students with the aims, essence and methodologies of comparative research, and introduce them to the theoretical foundations of the comparative approach. Students are expected to demonstrate that they have acquired the skills taught during the course and that they have mastered the historical background and literary material characterizing the period and the streams of literature analyzed throughout the course.  The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit". |
| Evaluation methods          | The writing assessment of this course will be a paper in French (length between 3000 and 4000 words). In this paper, students will compare one of the required novels/films and one of the optional novels/films, on an issue related to nostalgia. The comparison will cover two novels OR one novel and one film but not two films. The paper will be submitted on the first day of the exam session of January (and/of September). Two versions will be submitted: a printed version in the teacher's pigeonhole (Erasme College, 3rd floor, B-wing) and an electronic version (word) posted on Moodle.  The evaluation mode is the same for each session.   |
| Teaching methods            | - Formal lectures - Personal reading/watching of 3 novels and 3 films + 1 novel or film to be selected - Active participation to the discussions on the novels and films  |
| Content                     | In 2018-2019, the course will examine different forms, themes, processes and effects of nostalgia in literature and cinema from a dual perspective, synchronic (literary history of the nostalgic affect, from Antiquity) and diachronic (analysis of contemporary novels and films from the point of view of nostalgia, in relation to their respective historic and cultural contexts). This comparative exploration will allow the students to understand, analyze and contextualize the concept of nostalgia with all its complexity and ambivalences (retromania, regressive yearning to restore a golden age, but also reflexive and creative relation to the past) and to link it with other associated or apparently opposite concepts, like irony, utopia, memory, (post)modernity, mourning or melancholia.   |
| Inline resources            | Moodle website  |
| Bibliography                | <ul> <li>Trois romans obligatoires (Beloved de Toni Morrison; L'ignorance de Milan Kundera; L'homme qui parle de Mario Vargas Llosa,)</li> <li>Trois films obligatoires (Good Bye, Lenin! de Wolfgang Becker; Tabou de Miguel Gomes; Midnight in Paris de Woody Allen)</li> <li>Les œuvres au choix seront indiquées au début du cours</li> <li>Un syllabus avec des extraits de textes littéraires (e. a. Homère, Ovide, Pétrarque, el Inca Garcilaso, Du Bellay, Rousseau, Wordsworth, Proust, Nabokov) et de textes théoriques (e. a. Sigmund Freud, Jean Starobinski, Svetlana Boym, Fredric Jameson, John J. Su, Walter Benjamin, Katharina Niemeyer) sera disponible à la DUC.</li> </ul>   |
| Other infos                 | Some theoretical texts will be only in English.  The books may also be read in the original language, depending on the language skills of each student.   |
| Faculty or entity in charge | FIAL  |

| Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)  |         |         |              |      |  |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|------|--|
| Program title  | Acronym | Credits | Prerequisite | Aims |  |
| Master [120] in Ancient and<br>Modern Languages and<br>Literatures                                   | LAFR2M  | 5       |              | 0    |  |
| Master [120] in French and<br>Romance Languages and<br>Literatures : General                         | ROM2M   | 5       |              | •    |  |
|  | LITT9CE | 5       |              | ٩    |  |
| Master [120] in Translation  | TRAD2M  | 5       |              | ٩    |  |
| Master [120] in French and<br>Romance Languages and<br>Literatures : French as a Foreign<br>Language | FLE2M   | 5       |              | •    |  |
| Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German  | GERM2M  | 5       |              | •    |  |
| Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General   | ROGE2M  | 5       |              | •    |  |