

University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana
Comparative Literature
Spring 1991
Michael Palencia-Roth
Assisted by Professors Czynski, Lu, and Tikku

Cross-Cultural Comparison

Schedule of Readings

Week 1. January 10):

- a. Introduction
- b. Lecture on "Perspectives"

Week 2. January 17):

- a. Read: Arnold Toynbee, "The Relativity of Historical Thought," "The Field of Historical Study," Some Definitions of Terms," From *A Study of History*.
- b. Read: Michael Palencia-Roth, "Comparing Literatures, Comparing Civilizations," *Comparative Civilizations Review*, 21 (Fall 1989), 1 - 19.
- c. Read: Amin, Preface to *Eurocentrism* (pp. vii-viii).
- d. Skim: A.L. Kroeber, "Kinds and Properties of Styles," "Style and Civilizations," from *Style and Civilizations*.

Week 3 January 24):

- a. Read: Homer, Books 9 and 10 from the *Odyssey*
- b. Read: Herodotus, Selections from Book IV of *The History*.
- c. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 1-11; 5-24).

Week 4 January 31):

- a. Read: *The Letter of Prester John*.
- b. Read: Marco Polo, Selections from *The Travels*.
- c. Read: *Mandeville*, Selections from *The Travels*.
- d. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 25-59).
- e. Recommended: Rudolf Wittkower, "Marvels of the East," from *Allegory and the Migration of Symbols*.

Week 5 (February 7):

- a. Read: Columbus, "Diary of the First Voyage (selections)," Sanchez, "Letter to the Sovereigns on the Third Voyage."
- b. Read: Vespucci, "A New World Letter."
- c. Read: Miguel Leon-Portilla (ed), *Selections from The Broken Spears*.
- d. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 71-78)

Week 6 (February 14):

- a. Read: Montaigne, "Of Cannibals" and "Of Coaches."
- b. Read: Edmund Leach, "The Unity of Man," from *Social Anthropology*.
- c. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 79-117).

Week 7 (February 21):

- a. Read: *China's Response to the West* (selected documents).
- b. Read: *The Japanese Discovery of Europe* (selected documents).
- c. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 60-67)

Week 8 (February 28):

- a. Read: Mary Helms, "The Cultural Creation of Space and Distance, from *Ulysses' Sail*.
- b. Read: Marshall Sahlins, "Other Times, Other Customs: The Anthropology of History," from *Islands of History*.
- c. Recommended: F.S.C. Northrop, "The Meaning of western Civilization," "The Traditional Culture of the Orient," "The Meaning of Eastern Civilization," from *The Meeting of East and West*.

Week 9 (March 7):

- a. Read: O. Mannoni, Selections from *Prospero and Caliban*.
- b. Read: Edward Said, Selections from *Orientalism*.
- c. Read: "What is the Third World?" From *Third World Ideology and Western Reality*.

Week 10 (March 14):

Read: Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*.

Week 11 (March 21):

Read: Ch'ien Chung-shu, *Fortress Besieged* (selections)

[Spring Break]

Week 12 (April 4):

Read: Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*.

Week 13 (April 11)

Read: Mario Vargas Llosa, *The Storyteller*.

Week 14 (April 18)

The Question of Eurocentrism:

- a. Read: Amin, *Eurocentrism* (pp. 118-152)
- b. Read: Bernard Lewis, "Other People's History"

Week 15 (April 25): (Final day)

Quod libes