

**G41.2890**  
**The Humanities in an Era of Global Comparatism**  
**GRADUATE SEMINAR AND SPEAKER SERIES Spring 2005**  
**Instructors: Emily Apter (French/CompLit) ; Mary Louise Pratt**  
**(Spanish/CompLit)**  
**Crosslisted with G95.2978(Spanish and Portuguese)/G45.2890 (French and**  
**Italian)/G29.2978 (Comparative Literature)**  
**Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 PM**  
**Call # 31460**

**This series is designed to form both a course for graduate students in literature, and a series of public events open to faculty, staff and graduate students, with a special invitation to members of the six language and literature departments housed at 19 University Place.**

**The purpose of the seminar/series is to foster dialogue around two broad questions:**  
**1. What paradigms are available for apprehending 21st century globality? What are their strengths and limitations? What is the work of the humanities in this context?**  
**2. How can questions of language be introduced into these paradigms? What specific characteristics of global orders come into view when language is addressed?**

**All sessions will be held on ground floor of 19 University Place. Up to 30 graduate students may enroll in the class for credit, with first preference for students in the language and literature departments. The sessions with outside visitors (starred below) are designed as events open to the public. Readings for all sessions will be available online for those who sign up.**

**Sessions marked \* are open to the public.**

**Jan 20 Introductory**

**Jan 27 Mapping the humanities today**

**\*Feb 3 Planetary paradigms.**

**Visitor: Elizabeth Grosz, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University and author of *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*, and *The Nick of Time: Politics, Evolution and the Untimely* (Duke UP, 2004).**

**Feb 10 Planetary cont'd.. Further readings on globality from Spivak, Moretti, Casanova.**

**\*Feb 17 The search for common language.**

**Visitor: Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett, Professor of Performance Studies, author**

**of Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums and Heritage**  
(Berkeley : UC Press 1998), and co-author of UNESCO's **Guidelines on Intangible Heritage** (2004)

**Feb 24 Area studies, secularism, and the Middle East**

**\*Mar 3 Language in the new world order.**

**Presenters: Emily Apter, Professor of French and Comparative Literature NYU and Mary Louise Pratt, Prof. of Spanish and Latin American Studies, NYU.**

**\*Mar 10 Geopolitics of language, literacy, and culture**

**Visitor: Rey Chow, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Brown University, author most recently of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Columbia UP 2002.**

**Mar 17 SPRING BREAK**

**\*Mar 24 Collectivities and belongings**

**Visitor: Etienne Balibar, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Paris X and Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the University of California, Irvine. Books in English include "Masses, Classes, Ideas, Politics and the Other Scene and "We, The People of Europe: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship" (Princeton UP 2004)**

**\*Mar 31 Subjects, Ethics, Truth**

**Visitors: Peter Hallward, Lecturer in French at King's College, London. Author of *Absolutely Postcolonial: Writing Between the Singular and the Specific*, and *Badiou: A Subject to Truth* (Univ. of Minnesota UP 2003)  
Gabriela Basterra, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, NYU, author of *Seductions of Fate: Tragic subjectivity, Ethics, Politics* (NY:Palgrave 2004).**

**Apr 7 discussion cont'd**

**\*Apr 14 Media and media theory.**

**Visitors: Samuel Weber, Avalon Foundation Professor of the Humanities and Director of the Paris Program in Critical Theory, Northwestern University, Author of "Mass Mediaurus," "The Legend of Freud," and "Targets of Opportunity" (Forthcoming, 2005 Fordham University Press)  
Thomas Keenan, Professor of English and Director of Program in Theory and Human Rights," Bard University. Author of *Fables of Responsibility: Aberrations and Predicaments in Ethics and Politics* (Stanford UP) and *Live Feed*.**

**Apr 21 discussion cont'd**

**\*Apr 28 The Case for literature**

**Visitors: To be announced**

**May 5 discussion.**