

**Research Methodology in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies**  
**School of Letters (AUD)**  
**Monsoon 2018**  
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**SOL3CL303 (MPhil)/SOL3CL203 (PhD)**  
**4 credits**  
**Wed 1.45-3.45 (T5)**  
**Fri 1.45-3.45 (T5)**

This course is compulsory for each MPhil cohort in CLTS. It is recommended for all entrants in the PhD CLTS programme. Along with the Genealogies of CLTS core course, this course prepares the student to formulate their research problematic/question in the disciplines of CL/TS.

There is no methodology of the literary humanities, unless you consider reading itself to be a methodology. Unlike disciplines such as history or sociology which have a seemingly clear object of study, in literary study we study language using language. There is a circularity in literary study which is unfortunately hastily averted in Bachelors (and some Masters programmes) by recourse to studying historical backgrounds, socio-economics of literary production, cultural studies or learning poetics. While these are worthy subdisciplines of literary study, how do we pose the object of research in literary study without getting outside this circularity? In other words, what are we supposed to research in literature? If research looks for new questions and paradigms, how do we learn to pose these questions and construct such paradigms in relation to the phenomenon of literature? Thanks to the lack of a methodological bedrock, we can learn these procedures by reading how others have carried out research in the literary humanities. This is what we will study in this course.

**Module One: Comparison**

1. Tagore, R. 'Kabuliwala' & Hina, Z. 'Kumkum is doing fine'.
2. Kilito, A. 'The Translator' (From *Thou shalt not speak my language*)

**Module Two: Point of Departure**

3. Wakankar, M. 'The anomaly of Kabir' (From *Subalternity and Religion*)
4. Mufti, A.R. 'Saadat Hasan Manto: A Greater Story Writer Than God' (From *Enlightenment in the Colony*).

**Module Three: Reading**

5. Faruqi, S.R. 'Constructing a Literary History, a Canon, and a Theory of Poetry' (From *Ab-e-Hayat*)
6. Satyanarayana, K. and S. Tharu. 'Introduction' to *No Alphabet in Sight: New Dalit Writing from South India*.

**Assessment:**

1. Short response paper on the idea of comparison based on student's initial proposal: 35%
2. Draft of section on research methodology for synopsis: 25%
3. End-term paper on main ideas of discussion in the course: 40%

**Suggested Readings:**

- Borges, J.L. 'Pierre Menard, Author of the *Quixote*' (From *Labyrinths*)  
Benjamin, W. 'On Language as Such and on the Language of Man' (*Selected Writings*, vol. 1)  
Foucault, M. *The Order of Things* (esp. Ch 3).  
Melas, N. *All the Difference in the World: Postcoloniality and the Ends of Comparison*. Stanford, 2006.  
Spivak, G.C. *Readings*. Kolkata, 2014.