Comparative Literature Style Guide


Comparative Literature Style Sheet

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgments are made in the first person and appear as a first unnumbered footnote on the first page of the article.

CONTRIBUTOR’S NOTE

CL articles do not include a contributor’s note. The author’s academic affiliation is given at the end of the article.

EMPHASIS

If italics are added to a quoted passage for emphasis, the passage must be followed by “(emphasis mine)” or “(emphasis added).” The author does not need to indicate “(emphasis in original)” when italics appear in the original extract.

EPIGRAPHS

CL only allows epigraphs at the beginning of the essay, not before sections. Epigraphs must be directly referred to or analyzed in the body of the essay unless they are in the public domain or the author has obtained permission to use them.

FOOTNOTES

All footnotes (typed as endnotes in the manuscript) must be discursive (that is, not limited to documenting a source or sources). They should be limited in number and typically include relevant material that cannot conveniently be included in the text. Any material central to the main argument of the essay should be included in the text.

SECTION HEADINGS (SUBHEADS)

CL allows two types of breaks in essays: section breaks with subheads; and section breaks indicated by three asterisks. Subheads are set in boldface. The first paragraph after a subhead is indented.

TRANSLATIONS
All passages in languages other than English should be accompanied by a translation. If the translations are the author’s own, that fact should be indicated in a footnote; if from a published source, that source should be identified and included in the list of Works Cited.

**Block Quotations**
The original should appear first, with the source for the original in parentheses after the final period of the quotation. The English translation, with source cited the same way, should always come second.

**Translations within the Text**
If the translation is the author’s own:

“original version of the quotation” (source of the quotation; English translation of the quotation). There should be no quotation marks surrounding the English translation.

For example,

Céline even compares Proust’s style to the Talmud: both are “tortueux, arabescoïde, mosaïque désordonnée” (180; tortuous, arabescoid, a chaotic mosaic).

If the translation is from another source:

“original version of the quotation” (source of the quotation; “English translation of the quotation,” source of the translation). In this case the English translation is enclosed in quotation marks.

For example,

The narrator explains: “progenuit tellus ignotum nomine Ligdum, / ingenua de plebe virum; nec census in illo / nobilitate sua maior” (9:670–72; “Though the son / of humble parents, Ligdus was freeborn. / And like his lineage, his property / Was modest,” Mandelbaum 316).
ABBREVIATIONS

Corporate, municipal, national, and supranational abbreviations and acronyms appear in full caps. Most initialisms (abbreviations pronounced as strings of letters) are preceded by the.

- further expansion of NATO’s membership
- dissent within the AFL-CIO
- sexism is rampant at IBM
- certain US constituencies

Avoid abbreviations in the text, including etc. Instead of Latin abbreviations such as e.g. and i.e., use their English translations. An exception is the word sic, which is italicized. (See “Documentation Guidelines” for information on abbreviations in citations.)

Personal initials have periods and are spaced: W. E. B. Du Bois; C. D. Wright

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgments are made in the first person and appear as a first unnumbered footnote on the first page of the article.

ABSTRACT

Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of approximately 200 words. Book reviews and short issue introductions do not require abstracts.

Abstracts should be written in the third person (“This article proposes . . .”) not the first person (“I propose . . .”).

CAPITALIZATION. See also SPELLING AND TERMS

After a Colon

If the material introduced by a colon consists of more than one sentence, or if it is a quotation or a speech in dialogue, it should begin with a capital letter. Otherwise, it begins with a lowercase letter (CMS 6.63).

Quotations

Silently correct initial capitalization in quotations depending on the relationship of the quotation to the rest of the sentence (see CMS 13.19). For instance:

- Smith stated that “we must carefully consider all aspects of the problem.”
- but
- Smith stated, “We must carefully consider all aspects of the problem.”

A lowercase letter following a period plus three dots should be capitalized if it begins a grammatically complete sentence (CMS 13.53).
The spirit of our American radicalism is destructive. . . . The conservative movement . . . is timid, and merely defensive of property.

Terms
A down (lowercase) style is generally preferred for terms. See CMS, chap. 8, for detailed guidelines on capitalization of terms.

Titles of Works
For titles in English, capitalize the first and last words and all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and subordinating conjunctions (if, because, that, etc.). Lowercase articles (a, an, the), coordinating conjunctions, and prepositions (regardless of length), the to in infinitives, and the word as in any function.

For hyphenated and open compounds in titles in English, capitalize first elements; subsequent elements are capitalized unless they are articles, prepositions, or coordinating conjunctions. Subsequent elements attached to prefixes are lowercased unless they are proper nouns. The second element of hyphenated spelled-out numbers or simple fractions should be capitalized. If a compound (other than one with a hyphenated prefix) comes at the end of the title, its final element is always capitalized.

Nineteenth-Century Literature
Avoiding a Run-In
Policies on Re-creation
Reading the Twenty-Third Psalm

When titles contain direct quotations, the headline-capitalization style described above and in CMS should be imposed.

“We All Live More like Brutes than Humans”: Labor and Capital in the Gold Rush

In capitalizing titles in any non-English language, including French, capitalize the first letter of the title and subtitle and all proper nouns. See CMS 11.70 and 11.39 for the treatment of Dutch and German titles, respectively. Diacritical marks on capital letters are retained in all languages.

DATES AND TIMES. See also NUMBERS

For more information, see CMS 9.29–38.

May 1968
May 1, 1968
May 1–3, 1968
on February 8, 1996, at 8:15 a.m. and again at 6:15 p.m.
September–October 1992
from 1967 to 1970
1960s counterculture; sixties [not 60s or ’60s] counterculture
the 1980s and 1990s
mid-1970s American culture
the mid-nineteenth century [note hyphen, not en dash]
the late twentieth century; late twentieth-century Kenya
the years 1896–1900, 1900–1905, 1906–9, 1910–18
AD 873; the year 640 BC; Herod Antipas (21 BCE–39 CE) [use full caps without periods for era designations]
ca. 1820

ELLIPSES. See also CAPITALIZATION

Three dots indicate an ellipsis within a sentence or fragment; a period plus three dots indicates an ellipsis between grammatically complete sentences, even when the end of the first sentence in the original source has been omitted. In general, ellipses are not used before a quotation (whether it begins with a grammatically complete sentence or not) or after a quotation (if it ends with a grammatically complete sentence), unless the ellipses serve a definite purpose. When ellipses are used in blocked poetry and verse drama excerpts, they should span the length of the line omitted. See CMS 13.50–58 for more detailed guidelines on the use of ellipses.

EMPHASIS

If italics are added to a quoted passage for emphasis, the passage must be followed by “(emphasis mine)” or “(emphasis added).” The author does not need to indicate “(emphasis in original)” when italics appear in the original extract.

EPIGRAPHS

CL only allows epigraphs at the beginning of the essay, not before sections. Epigraphs must be directly referred to or analyzed in the body of the essay.

EXTRACTS. See also CAPITALIZATION and ELLIPSES

Dramatic dialogue, verse quotations over two lines long, and prose quotations of more than 400 characters (including spaces) are set off from the surrounding text.

FIGURE CAPTIONS AND TABLE TITLES

Captions take sentence-style capitalization and have terminal punctuation. If credit or source information is provided, it should be the last element of the caption. Table titles take sentence-style capitalization but do not have terminal punctuation.

Figure 1. The author with unidentified friend, 1977.

Figure 2. The author posed for this picture with an unidentified friend in 1977.

Figure 3. Noam Chomsky at a political rally, 1971. Courtesy John Allan Cameron Archives, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Figure 4. Coal miners in Matewan, West Virginia, April 1920. The miners’ strike was depicted in John Sayles’s film Matewan. Photograph courtesy Matewan Historical Society.

Figure 5. Winston Roberts, When Last I Saw (1893). Oil on canvas, 56 × 48 in. Courtesy of the Campbell Collection, Central State Community College Library, Pleasance, Nebraska.
Figure 6. Harvey Nit, *These. These? Those!* (2011). Mascara on cocktail napkin, 16 × 16 cm. © Harvey Nit.

Table 3. Comparative frequency of bicycles, mopeds, and Segways in Amsterdam, Dublin, and Toronto, 2005–2015

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Avoid sexist language and terms that are gender specific (*chairman*, *mankind*, etc.). Never allow the form *s/he*. State both pronouns—*he or she*, *him or her*, *his or her*—or recast the sentence in the plural. Avoid alternating the use of masculine and feminine pronouns in an article. See CMS 5.251–60, especially 5.255–56.

INITIALS. See ABBREVIATIONS

KEYWORDS. See also ABSTRACT

Articles that include an abstract should also include three to five keywords. Keywords should be lowercase (except for names or titles that would otherwise be capitalized) and separated by commas.

*Keywords* negative affect, self-portrait, Del LaGrace Volcano, intersex, Polaroid photography

NUMBERS. See also DATES AND TIMES

Cardinal and ordinal whole numbers from one to ninety-nine (and such numbers followed by *hundred* and *thousand*), any number at the beginning of a sentence, and common fractions are spelled out. Common fractions are hyphenated as well. Numerals are used to express very large numbers (in the millions or more).

- no fewer than six of the eight victims
- no more than fifty-two hundred gallons
- One hundred eighty-seven people were put to death there during the twenty-third century BC
- attendance was about ninety thousand
- at least two-thirds of the electorate
- there were 2 million ballots cast
- the population will top 25 billion

Numbers applicable to the same category, however, are treated alike in the same context.

- no fewer than 6 of the 113 victims
- Almost twice as many people voted Republican in the 115th precinct as in the 23rd.

Numbers that express decimal quantities, dollar amounts, and percentages are written as figures.

- an average of 2.6 years
- now estimated at 1.1 billion inhabitants
- more than $56, or 8 percent of the petty cash
- a decline of $0.30 per share
Inclusive page numbers are given as follows (per CMS 9.61):

1–2, 3–11, 74–75, 100–103, 104–9, 112–15, 414–532, 505–16, 600–612, 1499–1501

Roman numerals are used in the pagination of preliminary matter in books, in family names and the names of monarchs and other leaders in a succession, in the names of world wars, in legal instruments, and in the titles of certain sequels.

On page iii Bentsen sets out his agenda.
Neither John D. Rockefeller IV, Elizabeth II, nor John Paul II was born before World War I.
Yet Title XII was meant to rectify not only inequities but iniquities.
Most critics consider The Godfather, Part II a better movie than Jaws 2. [Follow the usage in the original work, per CMS 9.43.]

Arabic numerals are used for the parts of books.

In part 2, chapter 2, of volume 11 of the Collected Works, our assumptions are overturned.

POSSESSIVES

The possessive of nouns ending with the letter s are formed by adding an apostrophe and an s (CMS 7.17).

Burns’s poetry
Camus’s novels
Descartes’s philosophy
Euripides’s plays
Jesus’s name

QUOTATIONS. See EXTRACTS

SECTION HEADINGS (SUBHEADS)

CL allows two types of breaks in essays: section breaks with subheads; and section breaks indicated by three asterisks. Subheads are set in boldface. The first paragraph after a subhead is indented.

SPELLING AND TERMS

Follow the online Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (www.merriam-webster.com) and Webster’s Third New International Dictionary for spelling. If more than one spelling is provided in the dictionary, follow the first form given (e.g., judgment, not judgement; focused, not focussed). Common foreign terms are set in roman type. (Common foreign terms are defined as those with main entries and not classified as “foreign term” in Webster’s.)

Prefixes are hyphenated before numerals and proper nouns. Otherwise, prefixes are generally not hyphenated before words; refer to Webster’s for guidance. Temporary compound adjectives are hyphenated before the noun to avoid ambiguity but are left open after the noun. Non-English phrases used as modifiers are open in any position, unless hyphenated in the original.
Put neologisms within quotation marks at first use.

A term referred to as the term itself is italicized.

In the twentieth century *socialism* acquired many meanings.
The word *hermeneutics* is the most overused term in recent monographs.
The term *lyricism* was misused in Smith’s book review.

**TABLES. See FIGURE CAPTIONS AND TABLE TITLES**

**TRANSLATIONS**

When an original non-English title and its translation appear together in the text, the first version (whether original or translation) takes the form of an original title, and the second version is always enclosed in parentheses and treated like a published title (whether or not the work represents a published translation) with title capitalization appropriate to the language.

I read *Mi nombre es Roberto* (My Name Is Roberto) in 1989.
I read *My Name Is Roberto* (*Mi nombre es Roberto*) in 1989.

Rubén Darío’s poem “Azul” (“Blue”) is one of my favorites.
Rubén Darío’s poem “Blue” (“Azul”) is one of my favorites.
Documentation Guidelines

Citing Sources in the Text
Quotations and references in the text and endnotes are followed by parenthetical citations (as detailed in MLA, chap. 6); a works cited list appears at the end of each article (as detailed in CMS, chap. 14). Every work that is cited in the text must appear on the list of works cited, which is organized alphabetically.

Parenthetical citations usually need only the author’s last name (if it is not indicated by the text) and the page number of the reference.

These underlying imperatives have compelled the bourgeoisie to “give its ideas the form of universality” (Sartre 234).

Sartre explains that these underlying imperatives have compelled the bourgeoisie to “give its ideas the form of universality” (234).

When several works by a single author are under discussion or are cited at the same time in an article, parenthetical citations also contain the first substantial word of the title.

“The first presupposition of human history is naturally the existence of living human individuals” (Marx, Werke 20; my translation). [Note use of semicolon to separate phrases such as “my translation” or “emphasis added.”]

If a work is published in more than one volume, the parenthetical citation contains both volume and page number, as (2: 538–89). If citations come from more than one place in a text, their page numbers are separated by a comma: (56, 87–88). Citations to multiple works are separated with semicolons: (Anger 135; Evans 216–17).

The notations f. (ff.), ibid., op. cit., and loc. cit. are not used, nor are eadem, idem, infra, passim, and supra. Commonly used abbreviations include cf., ed. (eds.), e.g., esp., et al., etc., fig. (figs.), fol. (fols.), i.e., n. (nn.), p. (pp.), pt. (pts.), ser., trans., vol. (vols.). Latin abbreviations are not italicized. Note that in et al., et is a whole word (meaning “and”) and therefore is not followed by a period. In references to poetry, where the abbreviation “l.” or “ll.” might be mistaken for a numeral, the word “line” or “lines” is spelled out.

Reference List
The reference list at the end of the article contains only works cited. References are arranged alphabetically by author, with multiple works by the same author arranged alphabetically by title. For multiple references by the same author, the author’s name is repeated; 3-em dashes are not used. In titles of works, serial commas are added, ampersands are spelled out, and numbers are spelled out. For additional guidelines concerning titles, see CAPITALIZATION in this document.

Sample References
BOOK

ending in an exclamation point or a question mark is followed by a colon only if the
question mark or exclamation point appears within quotation marks (CMS 14.96).] 
Midge, Anderson. What Were They Thinking? The Real Lives of the Dichter. New York: 
Petard, 2002. [Reverse italics (roman type) are used in book titles for terms that 
would themselves normally be italicized (CMS 8.173, 14.95).] 
Smith, John. All Tongue-Tied and Nowhere to Go; or, How to Save Face When They Put 
the preferred form in CMS 8.167]

E-BOOK


CHAPTER

Dollimore, Jonathan. “Transgression and Surveillance in Measure for Measure.” In 
Political Shakespeare: New Essays in Cultural Materialism, edited by Jonathan 
Weinstein, Donald. “The Art of Dying Well and Popular Piety in the Preaching and 
Thought of Girolamo Savonarola.” In Tetel, Witt, and Goffen 88–104.[A shortened 
form is used for chapters from collections that are also included in the reference list.]

PREFATORY MATTER


EDITED WORK

Tetel, Marcel, Ronald G. Witt, and Rona Goffen, eds. Life and Death in Fifteenth-

REPRINT

Williams, Theodore. The Art of Porcelain during the Late Ming Dynasty. 1905; repr., 
New York: Grove, 1974. [The date of first publication is followed by the facts of 
publishation for the reprint edition (CMS 14.114).]

TRANSLATION


FOREIGN-LANGUAGE WORK

Dachuan, Sun. *Jiujiu jiu yici (One Last Cup of Wine)*. Taipei: Zhang Laoshi Chubanshe, 1991. [This form is recommended for works in languages relatively unfamiliar to Western readers. The translated title uses italics and headline capitalization (contra CMS 11.9)—in other words, it is treated as if it named a published translation even if it does not.]

**MULTIVOLUME WORK**


Hooker, Joseph. *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, edited by Georges Edelen, W. Speed Hill, P. G. Stanwood, and John E. Booty. 4 vols. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1977–82. [If there are ten editors or fewer, all are listed by name; if more than ten, the first is listed by name, followed by “et al.” (CMS 14.76).]

**MULTIAUTHOR WORK**


Gustafson, Albert K., Jonas Edwards, Ezra Best, and Nathan Wise. *If I Were a Rich Man: Comparative Studies of Urban and Rural Poverty*. Murphy, WI: Fore and Aft, 1985. [If there are ten authors or fewer, all are listed by name in a reference; if more than ten, the first is listed by name, followed by “et al.” (CMS 14.76).]

**ANONYMOUS WORK. See also UNSIGNED ARTICLE**

*A True and Sincere Declaration of the Purpose and Ends of the Plantation Begun in Virginia, of the Degrees Which It Hath Received, and Means by Which It Hath Been Advanced*. London, 1610. [The title appears in place of the author; “Anonymous” or “Anon.” is not used. For purposes of alphabetization an initial article is ignored (CMS 14.79).]

**UNDATED WORK**


**REFERENCE WORK**


**JOURNAL ARTICLE, PRINT**

Meban, David. “Temple Building, Primus Language, and the Proem to Virgil’s Third Georgic.” *Classical Philology* 103, no. 2 (2008): 150–74. [Journal published in volumes; the month or season is not required. As a courtesy to readers who consult articles online, issue numbers should be given if available.]


JOURNAL ARTICLE, ONLINE


Jovanovic, Boyan, and Peter L. Rousseau. “Specific Capital and Technological Variety.” *Journal of Human Capital* 2, no. 2 (2008): 129–52. doi.org/10.1086/590066. [If the author has provided a DOI rather than a URL, use the DOI in URL form, as indicated here. See CMS 14.8.]

REVIEW


SPECIAL ISSUE, and ARTICLE IN SPECIAL ISSUE


MAGAZINE ARTICLE


NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, PRINT


NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, ONLINE

UNSIGNED ARTICLE


DISSERTATION


PAPER OR PRESENTATION


PERSONAL COMMUNICATION OR INTERVIEW

Noah Fence (pers. comm., April 1, 2014) speculated on the pitfalls of having a play on words for a name. [References to such communications as emails or private messages shared on social media often can be run in to the text, without need of note or reference (CMS 14.214).]

24. Jacques Petits Fours (provost, Upper Midwestern University), interview by author, Ames, IA, February 20, 1995. [Interviews or other personal communications in which more information than the date is pertinent may appear in a note (CMS 14.214).]

NOTE


SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

[Citations of social media content may contain such elements as the author of the post; the title, or the text, of the post; the type of post (e.g., the service and/or a brief description); the date; and a URL. Contra CMS 14.209, such citations have corresponding references.]


Souza, Pete (@petesouza). “President Obama bids farewell to President Xi of China at the conclusion of the Nuclear Security Summit.” Instagram photo, April 1, 2016. www.instagram.com/p/BDrmfXTtNCt.

WEBSITES (OTHER THAN ONLINE PUBLICATIONS)