

# LIT 2120: Survey of World Literature, 1750 - Present

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Spring 2015: Section 05DA  
Classroom: MCCB 2102  
MWF Period 3  
9:35 - 10:25

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## Course Description, Objectives, and Outcomes

This course invites you to engage with the fiction from some of the well-known authors of contemporary world literature. This course attempts to supplement students' often-incomplete literary experience owing to propensities to focus on British and American canons. While the body of world literature during this period is vast, the works of these authors will allow us to attend to the major formal, philosophical, political, cultural, and aesthetic aspects of the literary canon and analyze how and why they have developed. The primary aims of the course are 1) to introduce students to a wide range of authors and the historical, cultural, political forces that influenced them, and 2) to sharpen how we read and respond to literary texts in a critical fashion. We will practice close-readings of texts and also investigate their historical contexts. Additionally, we will discuss the use and development of literary criticism and theory, and we will learn how to execute various theoretical and critical approaches to literary analysis.

Students will develop the skills of reading critically both literary texts and literary criticism. In clear, academic-level prose, students will be able to make substantiated arguments about the texts they have read, their place in literary history, their broader historical contexts, and the critical scholarship written about literary texts. They will be able to conduct formal research on literature, using secondary and/or archival sources to support their theses, analyses, and arguments.

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## Required Texts

Calvino, Italo. *If on a winter's night a traveler* (1979). 0156439611.

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1995). 0380813947.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981). 140003471X.

Sembène, Ousmane. *Xala* (1973). 1556520700.

Salih, Tayeb. *Season of Migration to the North* (1966). 1590173023.

Smith, Zadie. *NW* (2012). 0143123939.

## Assignments and Grade Breakdown

### 10 Response Papers (250 words each, 200 points total)

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to write and submit **10** brief response papers to a reading of your choice analyzing the readings and addressing larger concerns evoked through your reading. Response papers are to be submitted prior to the class period in which we will discuss the reading.

### Essay 1: Close-Reading/Analysis (1,000 words, 100 points)

This essay will be a sustained close-reading of any text on our syllabus listed before the essay's due date.

### Essay Prospectus/Annotated Bibliography (500 words, 100 points)

This assignment contains both a formal abstract for your Researched Critical Essay and an annotated bibliography of at least **5** sources.

### Essay 2: Researched Critical Essay (2,000 words, 400 points)

This essay will be a sustained, formally researched critical analysis in which you will make an original argument about one or more literary text(s) through a particular theoretical, historical, or critical lens.

### Attendance/Daily Participation (200 points)

Daily and engaged participation is a priority in this course. All students should participate every day in some fashion by offering points of view, raising questions, asking for clarification, and/or writing when it is required. Attendance is mandatory.

### Grading Scale

A	4.0	93-100	930-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-92	900-929	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

A: Student fulfills all required aspects of assignment and work shows superior levels of originality, creativity, and critical insight.

B: Student fulfills all required aspects of assignment to adequate degree. Work in this range needs revision.

C: Student fails to complete all required aspects of assignment. Work is incomplete in content. Work in this range needs significant revision.

D: Student neglects basic requirements of the assignment.

E: Student fails to complete assignment.

## General Education Guidelines

This course can satisfy the General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general--education--requirement.aspx>

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/writing--and--math--requirement.aspx>

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student--honor--code.aspx>

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on students' written assignments regarding the following: 1) the depth of critical inquiry, the execution and sophistication of theses and arguments, and the level of researched evidence supporting arguments made, 2) the content, organization and coherence of this work, 3) and its style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics. This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

For this 2000- level course, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Department of English Program Assistant. Please note that grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

(Subject to Change)

Complete readings/assignments before class on the day they are listed.

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### **Week One: Introductions**

Wed. Jan. 7 - Course Introduction

Fri. Jan. 9 - Syllabus Overview & Discussion

### **Week Two: Short Stories**

Mon. Jan. 12 - Ana Menendez, "In Cuba I Was A German Shepherd"; **Drop/Add Ends**

Wed. Jan. 14 - Junot Diaz, "Drown"

Fri. Jan. 16 - Leslie Marmon Silko, "Yellow Woman"; Sherman Alexie, "What You Pawn I Will Redeem"

### **Week Three: France**

Mon. Jan. 19 - **No Class**

Wed. Jan. 21 - Albert Camus, *The Stranger* (available online)

Fri. Jan. 23 - Albert Camus, *The Stranger*

### **Week Four: France**

Mon. Jan. 26 - Albert Camus, *The Stranger*

Wed. Jan. 28 - Albert Camus, *The Stranger*

Fri. Jan. 30 - Albert Camus, *The Stranger*

### **Week Five: Sudan**

Mon. Feb. 2 - Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

Wed. Feb. 4 - Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

Fri. Feb. 6 - Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

### **Week Six: Senegal**

Mon. Feb. 9 - Sembène Ousmane, *Xala*

Wed. Feb. 11 - Sembène Ousmane, *Xala*

Fri. Feb. 13 - Sembène Ousmane, *Xala*

### **Week Seven: Italy**

Mon. Feb. 16 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*; **Close Reading/Analysis Due**

Wed. Feb. 18 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*

Fri. Feb. 20 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*

### **Week Eight: Italy**

Mon. Feb. 23 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*

Wed. Feb. 25 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*

Fri. Feb. 27 - Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*

### **Week Nine: Spring Break**

Mon. Mar. 2 - **Spring Break**

Wed. Mar. 4 - **Spring Break**

Fri. Mar. 6 - **Spring Break**

### **Week Ten: India**

Mon. Mar. 9 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*; **Revision Due**

Wed. Mar. 11 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*

Fri. Mar. 13 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*

### **Week Eleven: India**

Mon. Mar. 16 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*; **Essay Prospectus/Annotated Bibliography Due**

Wed. Mar. 18 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*

Fri. Mar. 20 - Amitav Ghosh, *The Calcutta Chromosome*

### **Week Twelve: Colombia**

Mon. Mar. 23 - Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Wed. Mar. 25 - Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Fri. Mar. 27 - Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

**Week Thirteen: Britain**

Mon. Mar. 30 - Zadie Smith, *NW*; **Researched Critical Essay Due**

Wed. Apr. 1 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Fri. Apr. 3 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

**Week Fourteen: Britain**

Mon. Apr. 6 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Wed. Apr. 8 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Fri. Apr. 10 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

**Week Fifteen: Britain**

Mon. Apr. 13 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Wed. Apr. 15 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Fri. Apr. 17 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

**Week Sixteen: Wrap-up**

Mon. Apr. 20 - Zadie Smith, *NW*

Wed. Apr. 22 - **Revision Due; Last day of class**