

“The Part for the Whole”
Comparative Literature English 464/664
Section 59099/59102 Summer 2004

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MTWTF 9.00-11.15

Morrill 107

Office Hours: 12-12.30 PM T & Th

and by appointment

website: <http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/maune>

<http://blackboard.ndsu.nodak.edu/>

Objectives

This course is designed to investigate a variety of forms of writing from a variety of living writers. I have attempted to choose works written by authors who remain active and who come from a broad range of geographic, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds. Our objective in its simplest form is to find ways of reading these works against each other, against our own personal experiences as readers and against selected theoretical formulations.

Requirements

I have designed this course to run as a seminar that is while I have chosen the texts I expect that everyone in class will contribute equally to the discussion. The format will be almost entirely discussion, which is not always easy to maintain for two hours. I will ask each of you to lead the discussion for part of each class meeting. In doing this, I expect that you will do more than simply ask general questions about the texts. You each will write a one-page journal entry for each class meeting. This is to be typed and must be handed in during the class. These journal entries are to record your engagement with the text as an active, curious reader. You may, for example, relate the texts to each other, provide character analysis, stage theoretical interventions. Graduate students must prepare a five hundred word précis of a particular theoretical framework that they wish to use in their reading of the course texts. Undergraduates are encouraged to do so as well, but not required. The term paper will draw on your journals and précis to present a critical engagement with one or more of the course texts. More details can be found below. No late papers will be accepted.

Grading (undergraduate)		Scale		Grading (Graduate)	
17 Journal Entries	170 points	A	100-90 %	17 Journal Entries	170 points
Participation	100 points	B	89-80 %	Participation	100 points
Term Paper	100 points	C	79-70 %	Term Paper	100 points
		D	69-60 %	Précis	50 points
Total	370 points			Total	420 points

Texts

The Book of Laughter and Forgetting, Milan Kundera
The King, the Witch and the Priest, Pramoedya Ananta Toer
Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind, Hayao Miyazaki
The Wedding of Zein and Other Stories, Tayeb Salih
A floppy disk specifically for this class

Students with Special Needs

Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations in this course are asked to share these concerns with me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

I assume that all work you turn in for this course is yours, and any material that you have acquired from an outside source is documented properly. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and will result in possible failure of the course. See NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct
<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>.

Late Papers

Late papers will not be accepted and receive a score of zero. Papers must be physically turned in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. No emailed or faxed papers.

Attendance

Because this course is so brief, one absence will result in the loss of a full grade from your final grade. Two absences will result in a loss of two grades. Three will result in failure. In order to be considered present, you must be in class for the entire course meeting time.

Participation

Your participation score will take into consideration your preparation for class, contribution to class discussion, and bring books and materials to every class meeting.

Paper Format

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be type-written, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in twelve-point Times font. Your name, the date, the class, my name and the assignment are to be at the top of the first page. Don't forget to title your work. Any papers longer than one page must have page numbers and be stapled.

Précis

This is to be a five hundred word summary of a particular critical essay or book that you will use in your reading of the course texts. I would like you to provide me with a copy of the article or the introduction to the book. The précis must provide your reader with everything he or she needs to know in order to understand (generally) the work you are summarizing. If you would like suggestions for possible works to use, please see me.

Term Paper

Your term paper is to be the culmination of your course work. Ideally, it will evolve out of ideas, tropes, questions, and topics that have come up in your journal and in class discussion. You may focus on one text or more than one. If you would like to work with a text we are not reading, you must include at least one of the course texts. For undergraduates, the term paper will be 2,500 to 3,000 words. I encourage you to conduct outside research or use a theoretical position, but this is not required. For graduate students, your term paper will be 3,500 to 5,000 words. You must engage with a critical position as well as the course texts. Ideally, you may adapt your précis for this purpose and include it in your paper.

Calendar (subject to change)

18 May	Introductions, poetry
19 May	Gabriel García Márquez four stories
20 May	<i>The Book of Laughter and Forgetting</i> , Milan Kundera
21 May	<i>Laughter and Forgetting</i>
24 May	<i>Laughter and Forgetting</i> Précis due
25 May	<i>Laughter and Forgetting</i>
26 May	<i>The King, the Witch and the Priest</i> , Pramoedya Ananta Toer
27 May	<i>The King, the Witch</i>
28 May	Poetry
31 May	No class, Memorial Day
1 June	<i>The Wedding of Zein and Other Stories</i> , Tayeb Salih
2 June	<i>Wedding of Zein</i>
3 June	Poetry
4 June	<i>Decalogue Part 1</i> , Krzysztof Kieslowski
7 June	<i>Decalogue Part 1</i>
8 June	<i>Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind</i> , Hayao Miyazaki
9 June	<i>Spirited Away</i> , Hayao Miyazaki
10 June	<i>Spirited Away</i>
11 June	<i>Spirited Away</i>
17 June	Term paper due in my office before noon.