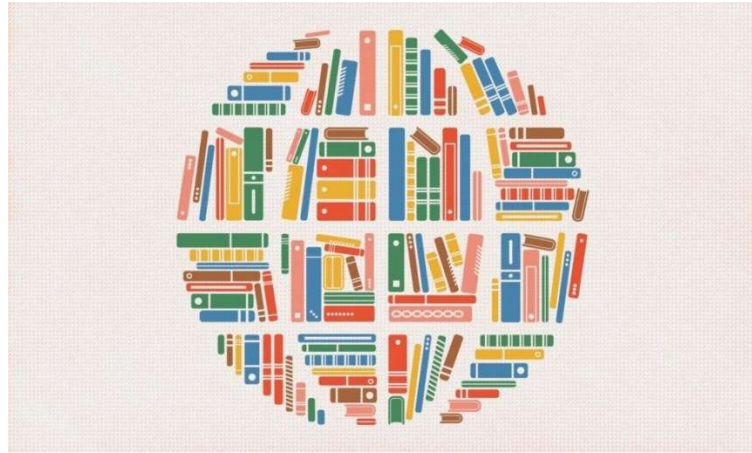


World Literature (Fall 2021)

Dr. Jenny C. Bledsoe

This course introduces students to a wide range of literary works from authors across the world and the centuries. The class this semester includes units on travel, myth, and magical realism. Readings represent a variety of literary forms, including graphic novel, play, poem, Scripture, and essay. Authors include Euripides, Jorge Luis Borges, Haruki Murakami, Marjane Satrapi, and Joy Harjo.



World Literature
ENGL 3413

BOOKS

The following three books are required. All other readings will be available via a link or PDF on Blackboard.

- Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000). ISBN: 978-0374527075.
- Haruki Murakami, *The Strange Library* (Knopf, 2014). ISBN: 978-0385354301.
- Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis* (Pantheon, 2007). ISBN: 978-0375714832.

ASSIGNMENTS

Requirement	Deadline	Percentage of final grade
Attendance	ongoing	10%
Participation including contributions during class (6%) and in online discussions (7x, 2% each)	ongoing	20%
Paper 1, 4–5 pages • Pt 1. An analysis of a theoretical article about world literature • Pt 2: <i>either</i> a lesson plan applying the theory <i>or</i> a traditional literary analysis using the theory to interpret a primary source	Fri., Oct. 1, 11:59pm	10%

Paper 2, 6–7 pages A close reading and literary analysis incorporating at least two sources from weeks 1–8	Fri., Oct. 29, 11:59pm	15%
Creative remix assignment		
• Proposal (1 page)	Fri., Nov. 12, 11:59pm	5%
• Creative product (a short story, poem, short play, graphic novel, podcast, animation, multimedia narrative, board game, video, etc.). No specific length requirement, but the final product should match the amount of work required for an 8–10-page research paper • Accompanying introduction and explanation of the final product (at least 500 words)	Mon., Dec. 6, 1:00pm	15%
• Presentation (3–4 min)	Mon., Dec. 6, in class	5%
Final exam	Mon., Dec. 13, first half from 1–2pm via Zoom, second half due by 11:59pm	20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 *Before class.* Read the syllabus
In class. Discuss “What is world literature?”; watch and discuss the following video: [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story.” TEDTalk](#)

Unit 1. Myth, Literature, and Religion

Aug. 30 **Narratives of the Great Flood**
 Genesis 6–9 (Hebrew); “Matsya, the Fish” (Hindu); “The Voice, the Flood, and the Turtle” (Caddo); “Montezuma and the Great Flood” (Tohono O’odham); “The Flood” (Haida); *Epic of Gilgamesh*, part I (including the flood narrative) ([PDFs](#))

Fri., Sept. 3: online discussion #1 due by 11:59pm

Sept. 6 Labor Day, no class

Sept. 13 **Epic Heroes**
Epic of Gilgamesh, part II; Rama, from the *Ramayana*; Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), from the *Buddhacharita* ([PDFs](#))

Fri., Sept. 17: online discussion #2 due by 11:59pm

Unit 2. Theories of World Literature

Sept. 20 Moretti, Casanova, Apter, and Thornber (PDFs)

Fri., Sept. 24: online discussion #3 due by 11:59pm

Unit 3. Place, Space, and Travel

Sept. 27 **Medieval Mongolia from Within and Without**
Excerpt from *The Secret History of the Mongols* (written by Mongol authors)
Medieval Franciscan narratives of missionaries in Mongolia: John of Plano
Carpini's *History of the Mongols*; letters between Pope Innocent IV and
Guyuk Khan (PDFs)

Fri., Oct. 1: Paper 1 due by 11:59pm

Oct. 4 **From Core to Periphery**
The Voyage of St Brendan
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters* (PDFs)

Fri., Oct. 8: online discussion #4 due by 11:59pm

Oct. 11 **From Periphery to Core**
Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*

Fri., Oct. 15: online discussion #5 due by 11:59pm

Unit 4. A Coming-of-Age Story (Bildungsroman)

Oct. 18 Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*, 3–172 (“The Veil” through “Tyrol”)
Bring to class: notes and quotes for Paper 2

Oct. 25 Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*, 173–341 (“Pasta” through the end)
Bring to class: draft of Paper 2

Fri., Oct. 29: Paper 2 due by 11:59pm

Unit 5. Drama

Nov. 1 Euripides, *Helen*
H. D., “Helen” (PDFs)

Fri., Nov. 5: online discussion #6 due by 11:59pm

Nov. 8 Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard* (PDF)

Fri., Nov. 12: Proposal for remix project due by 11:59pm

Unit 6. Magical Realism

Nov. 15 Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis”
Jorge Luis Borges, “The Garden of Forking Paths” (PDFs)

Fri., Nov. 19: online discussion #7 due by 11:59pm

Nov. 22 Haruki Murakami, *The Strange Library*
Final exam study guide distributed in class

Unit 7. Alaska from Three Perspectives

Nov. 29 St Innocent of Alaska, saint’s life by the Russian Orthodox Church of Alaska
John Muir, “The Discovery of Glacier Bay” (excerpts)
Joy Harjo, “Anchorage” (PDFs)

Conclusion

Dec. 6 **Remix projects due by 1 pm**
In class: remix project presentations and review for final exam

Dec. 13 **Final exam: first half from 1–2pm on Zoom, second half due by 11:59pm**