

Course Expectations, Fall 2009  
English  
Instructor: Richard Grant

I. Overview

This will be an intensive reading course with a goal of exploring the fullest possible range of literature from cultures around the world. We will begin on relatively familiar territory in the non-English-speaking parts of Europe and the Americas, ranging farther afield as the semester progresses. The reading list will encompass multiple literary forms: the novel, short fiction, drama, et alia.

We'll have regular writing assignments to practice the essential skills of written English (structure, usage, analysis, style, etc.) and to deepen our understanding of the reading material. There may be unscheduled in-class quizzes or exercises to confirm that students are keeping up with the assigned reading. Individual students may be given special personal assignments, including make-up work or quizzes, in order to earn credit for the class.

Students are encouraged to offer suggestions to round out the reading list, and to take an active role in shaping our approach to the cultures and artists we encounter.

Works to be read may include the following (this list is likely to be amended and may feature more short works, depending on the progress of the class):

- *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink
- *The Wanderer* by Alain-Fournier
- *The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinsky
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Márquez
- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *Spring Snow* by Yukio Mishima
- Short fiction by Thomas Mann, Julio Cortázar, and others
- Drama by Anton Chekhov
- Poetry by classic and contemporary writers

2. Earning credit

Credit is awarded for completing all reading and writing assignments and for active participation in class discussion and other activities (including any extra or alternative assignments given individually). Students will be expected to make up missed assignments, and may be tested to verify that they have finished the required reading.

Credit with honors may be awarded in exceptional cases when a student has completed all regular class assignments and, in addition, has done independent work outside of class, which may include original creative writing, reading a challenging work and presenting a paper or a talk, or some other ambitious and self-directed undertaking.

