



This course is, as the title implies, a reading course. The emphasis, then, is placed on the reading and discussion of a rather large body of literature, which means that you should expect to read approximately 75 to 100 pages for each class assignment. These readings will be, to the degree possible, thoroughly discussed and analyzed – utilizing an “intrinsic” approach as a starting point – during the respective class sessions.

Ultimately, the works you will be reading in this course, in addition to their independent significance, have also been chosen as a means of introducing you to various literary schools within the past century and a half. At the conclusion of this course, not only will you be acquainted with some of the finest artistic and ideational works of the past century, you will also be dealing with the literary schools of Realism, Naturalism, Existentialism, Social Realism and Contemporary Social Criticism.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs):**

The Student of Continental Writers (Literature 438) will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation.
2. Recall identify and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts, emphasizing:
  - a. Standard literary terminology,
  - b. Modes/genres of literature,
  - c. Elements of literary genres,
  - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments),
  - e. Contemporary critical approaches, and
  - f. Extra-literary research.
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that analyze several of the fundamental concepts of literary study with mastery increasing beyond the 200 course level.

## READINGS FOR CONTINENTAL WRITERS

The following works will be read for class discussion, and in the following order:

### **Realism: (The Question of Freedom, Suffering, Evil; Salvation through the Christ-Like Embrace)**

1. *The Brothers Karamazov* F. Dostoevsky
2. *Babette's Feast* I. Dinesen

### **The Three 20<sup>th</sup> Century Epochal Dystopias; "The Grand Inquisitor" Continued**

3. *We* Y. Zamyatin  
\*(1984) G. Orwell  
\*(*Brave New World*) A. Huxley

### **Evolution from Realism into Naturalism**

4. *Thérèse Raquin* E. Zola
5. *Ghosts, The Wild Duck, A Doll House* H. Ibsen
6. *Miss Julie* A. Strindberg

### **Neo-Romanticism**

8. *Steppenwolf* H. Hesse  
\*(*Siddhartha*) H. Hesse

### **Existentialism**

9. *The Plague* A. Camus

\*\* These works will not be assigned readings, but will be read in summary and discussed in context with Zamyatin's *We* and Hesse's *Steppenwolf*.

## GRADING

The grade you receive in this course is based on four criteria: 1) the periodic (virtually daily) quiz; 2) the mid-term; and 3) the final examination. The mid-term will cover the first seven weeks of the term, the final examination the last seven weeks. The final examination will not be comprehensive but will cover only the material handled in the last eight weeks (post-mid-term material). Quizzes cover the assigned reading for any given day and are objective in nature, geared to reward you for having read the material when assigned. You will have approximately 14–16 quizzes, which will result in an average quiz grade. This, in turn, will constitute a third of your grade along with the two examinations. Consideration for exigent circumstances is made in that I will drop your TWO lowest quiz grades when computing the quiz grade average.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set by the instructor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services available to them in the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as required by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

## EXAM DATES

<b>APPROXIMATE MID-TERM DATE:</b>	<b>Second week of March</b>
<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>Friday, 1:30 - 4:00; May 8, 2015</b>