

Reading South and North: Literature of the Americas
Fall and Winter, 2000-2001

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Program Web Page: <http://192.211.16.13/curricular/RSN/home.htm>

Program Description:

Nations, like people, seek identities to explain their place in the world. Among the attributes of national identity, culture plays a pivotal role, and within the realm of national culture, literature is especially formative. As a consequence, literature has long been read, studied, and taught as a national phenomenon. However, at the turn of the century we are becoming increasingly aware of the extent to which culture is not delimited by national borders. Local economies are fragments of the global economy that embraces and overwhelms them; likewise, individual lived experience is increasingly shaped by the pressure of global culture. In this program we will address the following questions with reference to the literature of the Americas, North and South: What is the role of literature in the global system? Does literature reflect developments in global culture? Does it resist them? Does it remain an expression of national culture? Have past efforts to read literature as a national experience been misguided? Has there been a shift from a national to a global preoccupation, and if so when did (or when will) it happen?

During fall quarter, we will focus on the modernization processes that took place over the first half of the 20th century and their repercussions on various definitions of nationalism, nationality and national culture. Our work this quarter will lay the foundation for thinking about globalization and late 20th century literature in the winter. In the fall we will explore four nodes of inquiry: 1) nation and mythology; 2) nation and internationalism; 3) nation and region; and 4) nation and city.

Lectures will provide the cultural, historical and social contexts which are indispensable in order to achieve a clear understanding of the relevance of each writer and their period. Other materials, such as Netscape sites and movies, will complement the lectures, readings and seminars. Four credits of this sixteen-credit program will be earned in a literary theory workshop. The theory workshop complements the work in the rest of the program and builds toward our ability to think about globalization in winter quarter. The concepts explored in workshops will help students understand the conventions of literary criticism.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
10-12 Lecture in LH2	9-11 Lecture in L2205	10-12 Seminar, L2127 & L2130
1-3 Seminar, L2218 & L2219	12:30-3:30 Workshop, Cab 110	

Required Texts:

Twelve-Credit Portion

Romulo Gallegos, *Doña Barbara*
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
Stephen Tapscott, ed., *Twentieth-Century Latin American Poetry*
William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
Juan Carolos Onetti, *A Brief Life*
Roberto Arlt, *The Seven Madmen*
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Literary Theory Workshop

Michael Ryan, *Literary Theory: A Practical Introduction*
Elizabeth Bishop, *The Complete Poems*
William Shakespeare, *King Lear*
Henry James, *The Aspern Papers*
Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Additional material on reserve

Assignments:

During fall quarter students will have three major formal assignments:

- 1) Small group oral/written presentations in seminar: Groups of three students will be in charge of seminar presentation on Mondays. The presentation will consist of a written and oral summary of the material covered the previous week and should demonstrate literary analysis, integration of texts and contexts, and incorporation of bibliographical research. Students in charge of presentations are expected to research the theme on their own for achieving a thorough understanding of the material and provide further information for discussion.
- 2) Midterm short essay: close reading and analysis of selected passages.
- 3) End of quarter essay that bridges literary theory and program texts/contexts.

Evaluation:

Student progress and achievement will be evaluated based on attendance, participation in seminars, and the quality of assigned work. An evaluation conference and a transcript self-evaluation are required when you leave the program; students who stay with the program both quarters should be prepared for an interim evaluation conference in December.

Credit:

Full credit will be awarded to students who are fully engaged with program activities and who produce quality academic work. Credit will be denied for failure to attend, failure to participate, late assignments, or for poor quality work. Credit will be awarded in American Literature, Latin American Literature and Literary Theory.

Fall Quarter Weekly Schedule:

Week One Sept. 25-27

Introduction

Monday Lecture	Greg and Evelia: Introduction to "Reading South and North"
Monday Seminar	Introductions and expectations
Tuesday Lecture	Greg: Nationalism
Tuesday Workshop	Evelia: Introduction to literary genres and literary studies Greg: How to read poetry: Elizabeth Bishop (bring your copy of <i>Complete Poems</i> to the workshop)
Wednesday Seminar	The concept of literature: Wellek, R and A. Warren, <i>Theory of Literature</i> , (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc, 1956): 15-37. Sartre, J.P., <i>What's Literature</i> , (London: Methuen & Co., 1967): 23-48.

Week Two Oct. 2-4

Nations and National Mythologies

Read for Monday:	Romulo Gallegos, Doña Barbara
Monday Lecture	Evelia: Language, Literature and National Identity

Monday Seminar	Library Tour.
Tuesday Lecture	Greg: Nationalism and Literary Study in the U.S.
Tuesday Workshop	<u>Formalism</u> : read Ryan , sec. 1.1, 1.4 & 1.5 and Bishop , “The Moose” and “At the Fishhouses.”. From library reserve, read Brooks , “The Formalist Critics.”
Wednesday Seminar	On this week’s reading and lectures
Week Three Oct. 9-11	Nations and National Mythologies
Read for Monday:	F. Scott Fitzgerald, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Monday Lecture	Greg: Fitzgerald
Monday Seminar	Student led integration seminar on previous week’s work
Tuesday Lecture	Evelia: Tradition and Vanguard
Tuesday Workshop	<u>Formalism</u> : read Bishop (poems TBA) and Brooks , “The Language of Paradox” (on reserve in the library)
Wednesday Seminar	On this week’s reading and lectures
Week Four Oct. 16-18	Nationalism and Internationalism
Read for Monday:	Modernist Poetry: Selections from Tapscott, ed., <i>Twentieth-Century Latin American Poetry</i> and selected poems from the U.S. (on reserve in the library)
Monday Lecture	Evelia: Brazilian Modernism
Monday Seminar	Student led integration seminar on previous week’s work
Tuesday Lecture	Greg: U.S. Modernist Poetry
Tuesday Workshop	<u>Formalism</u> : read Bakhtin , “Discourse in the Novel” (on reserve in the library)
Wednesday Seminar	On this week’s reading and lectures
Week Five Oct. 23-25	Reading Week
No class M or W, but: Tuesday Workshop	read <i>King Lear</i> and <i>The Aspern Papers</i> during the week First essay assignment due in class for editing workshop.
Week Six Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Nation and Region
Read for Monday:	William Faulkner, <i>The Sound and the Fury</i>
Due Monday:	Final draft of first assigned essay
Monday Lecture	Greg: Faulkner
Monday Seminar	Student led integration seminar on work from week four
Tuesday Lecture	Evelia: Bringing the World Home
Tuesday Workshop	<u>Structuralism</u> : read Ryan , 2.1, 2.2, <i>King Lear</i> , and Barthes , “The Structuralist Activity” (on reserve in the library)
Wednesday Seminar	Film and discussion. We meet in L2204 (Location may change)
Week Seven Nov. 6-8	Nation and Region
Read for Monday:	Juan Carolos Onetti, <i>A Brief Life</i>
Monday Lecture	Evelia: Onetti
Monday Seminar	Student led integration seminar on previous week’s work
Tuesday Lecture	Greg: TBA

Tuesday Workshop Structuralism: read **Ryan**, 2.3, 2.4, *The Aspern Papers*, **Bishop's** poem "The Map," and **Saussure**, "Course in General Linguistics" (on reserve in the library)

Wednesday Seminar On this week's reading and lectures

Week Eight Nov. 13-15 Nation and City

Read for Monday: **Roberto Arlt, *The Seven Madmen***
Monday Lecture Evelia: Prophetic Views of Buenos Aires
Monday Seminar Student led integration seminar on previous week's work
Tuesday Lecture Evelia: Arlt and the Novel.
Tuesday Workshop Marxism: read **Ryan**, 4.1 & 4.2, *King Lear*, and **Marx**, "The Manifesto of the Communist Party" (on reserve in the library)

Wednesday Seminar On this week's reading and lectures
Wednesday: **Final essay assigned**

Thanksgiving Break

Week Nine Nov. 27-29 Nation and City

Read for Monday: **Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man***
Monday Lecture Greg: Ellison part I
Monday Seminar Student led integration seminar on previous week's work
Tuesday Lecture Greg: Ellison part II
Tuesday Workshop Marxism: read **Ryan**, 4.3 & 4.4, *The Aspern Papers*, **Bishop's** poem "A Miracle for Breakfast," excerpts from Gramsci, "**Hegemony**," and from **Althusser**, "Ideology" (on reserve in the library)

Wednesday Seminar On this week's reading and lectures
Wednesday: **Portfolio Due: Include 1st and 2nd drafts of first paper assignment, your integration seminar paper, the final essay, and your reflective self-evaluation on what you've learned in the program so far.**

Week Ten Dec. 4-6 Transition to Winter Quarter and Globalization

Read for Monday: **Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye***
Monday Lecture Greg: Reviewing fall quarter and looking toward winter quarter
Monday Seminar Student led integration seminar on previous week's work
Tuesday Lecture Evelia: Reviewing fall quarter and looking toward winter quarter
Tuesday Workshop Marxism: read **Ryan**, 4.5, *The Bluest Eye*, and **Fiske**, "Culture, Ideology, Interpellation" (on reserve in the library)

Wednesday Seminar TBA

Evaluation Week Dec. 11-15

Don't make travel plans until after you have spoken with your seminar leader about evaluation conferences.