

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. During fall quarter, we focused on the modernization processes that took place over the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and their repercussions on various definitions of nationalism, nationality and national culture. During winter quarter we will explore issues related to globalization and cultural developments in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. 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. We will address the following questions with reference to the literature of the Americas, North and South:

- Has there been a shift from a national to a global preoccupation, and if so when did (or when will) it happen?
- 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?

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 LH3	9-11 Lecture, Longhouse 1007	10-12 Seminar, L2127 & L2130
1-3 Seminar, L2218 & L2219	12:30-3:30 Workshop, Cab 110	

## Required Texts:

### Twelve-Credit Portion

Cristina Peri Rosi, *Ship of Fools*  
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Almanac of the Dead*  
Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny Boy*  
A reader of Latin American short stories  
Additional reading in research groups.

### 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 winter quarter students will have these major formal assignments:

Midterm short essay: One short analytical paper in response to readings and lectures with the opportunity of a rewrite. The due date for the first draft will be Wednesday of the fourth week; and the rewrite will be due Wednesday of the fifth week. Deadlines are firm and no exemptions will be made.

Presentation: Students will choose a subject for a final presentation by the second week of the quarter. They will turn in a preliminary description and bibliography on Tuesday of the sixth week. During week six, students will give a preliminary oral report on their research which will develop into a 5-6 page written summary (due at the end of week 9) and oral presentation (week 10). Students will have the opportunity to share and discuss their projects throughout the quarter.

Portfolio: Include 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts of first paper assignment, description and bibliography of your research project, the final summary of your research, all workshop assignments and your reflective self-evaluation on what you've learned in the program.

## 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.

## 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.

## Winter Quarter Weekly Schedule:

### Week One Jan. 8-10

Read for Monday:	<b>Peri Rosi, <i>Ship of Fools</i></b>
Monday Lecture :	Evelia: Introduction to the program. The postmodern condition.
Monday Seminar:	Introduction to global issues. Form research groups. Discussion of <i>Ship of Fools</i>
Tuesday Lecture:	Greg: What is globalization?
Tuesday Workshop:	Greg: <b>Globalization and postmodernism:</b> Jameson, sec 1-3 of "Globalization as a Philosophical Issue"
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of <i>Ship of Fools</i>

### Week Two Jan. 15-17

Monday:	<b>Campus Holiday</b>
Read for Tuesday:	<b>Silko, <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>, pages 1-346</b>
<b>Due Tuesday:</b>	<b>Short paragraph describing your research topic and approach</b>
Tuesday Lecture:	Greg: Introduction to <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>
Tuesday Workshop:	Evelia: <b>Globalization and postmodernism:</b> Yúdice, “Postmodernity and Transnational Capitalism in Latin America”
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>

### Week Three Jan. 22-24

Read for Monday:	<b>Silko, <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>, pages 347-763</b>
Monday Lecture:	Film: <i>A Place Called Chiapas</i>
Monday Seminar:	Discussion of <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>
Tuesday Lecture:	Guest lecture on <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>
Tuesday Workshop:	Greg: <b>Globalization and postmodernism:</b> Jameson, sec. 4-5 of “Globalization as a Philosophical Issue”
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of <i>Almanac of the Dead</i>

### Week Four Jan. 29-31

#### Research Week

Read for Monday:	Selected readings for research
Monday Lecture:	Informal presentation of research topics
Monday Seminar:	Research group discussion.
Tuesday Lecture:	Informal presentation of research topics
Tuesday Workshop:	Evelia: <b>Feminist literary criticism:</b> Read Ryan, 6.1 and 6.2, <i>The Aspern Papers</i> , and Rubin, from “The Traffic in Women” (1984)
<b>Due Wednesday:</b>	<b>First draft of essay assignment</b>
Wednesday Seminar:	First essay editing session.

### Week Five Feb. 5-7

Read for Monday:	<b>Latin American short stories (reader)</b>
Monday Lecture:	Evelia: Borges and the short story
Monday Seminar:	Discussion of selected short stories
Tuesday Lecture:	Evelia: Borges and postmodernism
Tuesday Workshop:	Greg: <b>Feminist literary criticism:</b> Read Ryan, 6.5, Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> , Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (1975) and Bordo, “Material Girl” (1993).
<b>Due Wednesday:</b>	<b>Final essay</b>
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of selected short stories

### Week Six Feb. 12-14

#### Research Week

Read for Monday:	Selected readings for research
<b>Due Monday:</b>	<b>Preliminary description and bibliography of research project</b>
Monday Lecture:	Preliminary presentation of research projects
Monday Seminar:	Research group discussion
Tuesday Lecture:	Preliminary presentation of research projects
Tuesday Workshop:	Greg: <b>Gender Studies:</b> Read Ryan, 7.1 and 7.3, Bishop, “In the Waiting Room,” and Rich “Notes toward a Politics of Location” (1986)
Wednesday Seminar:	Research group discussion

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>: Special event: Lecture and recital by Chicano poet Alurista (attendance is mandatory).**

**Week Seven Feb. 19-21**

Monday:	<b>Campus Holiday</b>
Read for Tuesday:	<b>Selvadurai, <i>Funny Boy</i></b>
Tuesday Lecture:	Greg: Globalization, sexuality, and human rights
Tuesday Workshop:	Evelia: <b>Post-structuralism:</b> Read Ryan, 5.1, Nietzsche, from “On Truth and Lying” and Cixous, from “Sorties” (1975)
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of <i>Funny Boy</i>

**Week Eight Feb. 26-28                      Research Week**

Read for Monday:	Selected readings for research
Monday Lecture:	Research group discussion.
Monday Seminar:	Research group discussion
Tuesday Lecture:	Research group discussion
Tuesday Workshop:	Greg: <b>Post-structuralism:</b> Read Ryan, 5. 3, Bishop, “Crusoe in England” and Lyotard, from “The Postmodern Condition” (1979)
Wednesday Seminar:	Research group discussion

**Week Nine March 5-7**

Read for Monday:	<b>Latin American short stories (reader)</b>
Monday Lecture:	Evelia: The world(s) of short stories
Monday Seminar:	Discussion of selected short stories
Tuesday Lecture:	Evelia: Global issues in short stories.
Tuesday Workshop:	Evelia: End of the quarter review of different schools of criticism.
Wednesday Seminar:	Discussion of selected short stories

**Portfolio Due on Wednesday: Include 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> drafts of first paper assignment, description and bibliography of your research project, the final summary of your research, all workshop assignments and your reflective self-evaluation on what you’ve learned in the program.**

**Week Ten March 12-14    Presentations**

Monday Lecture:	Students' presentations
Monday Seminar:	Feedback on students' presentations
Tuesday Lecture:	Students' presentations
Tuesday Workshop:	Students' presentations
Wednesday Seminar:	End of program potluck (??)

**Evaluation Week March 19-23**

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