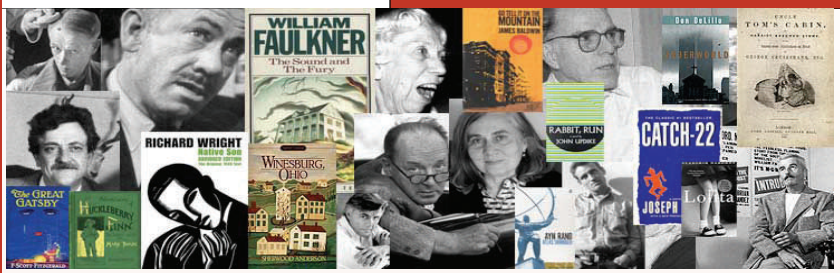
CMPL 26700: World Literature, 1700—present
Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

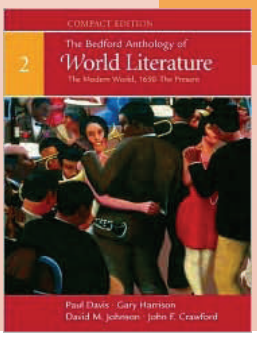


This course will explore shared aspirations, fragmentation of national identities, and the vital exchange between authors of various nationalities throughout major movements of the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Victorian and Symbolist Writing into the twentieth century's themes of Realism vs. Naturalism, Colonialism, and Modernism.

Our emphasis will be on the development of genres and the teaching of skills that allow you to think and read literature through a critical lens, ultimately enabling you to respond both orally and in writing to major works of world literature, while appreciating both the different value systems that set these works apart and the common threads that unite them.

In essence, we will investigate how works ranging from Kant, Swift, Goethe, Jacobs, Dickinson to Tolstoy, Xu, and Achebe ended up in the canon while others did not and attempt to answer the question why these works are still so essential to our understanding of literature through the ages. Assignments include two critical essays, a take-home midterm, a final, as well as shorter presentations and weekly responses.

Course Text: Davis, Paul et al. *The Bedford Anthology of World Literature: The Modern World, 1650 – The Present.* Volume 2. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.



For more information about this course please contact:

Martina Jauch

Course Goals

- You will develop a thorough knowledge of literary movements, genres, and major works since 1700 and recognize their features within a long history of canon construction.
- You will realize that you can analyze literary works from various backgrounds and improve your ability to interpret them in a systematic, concise, logical, and persuasive way.
- You will be able to identify ethical, social, and political issues relevant to other cultures and, thus, improve your ability to examine your own culture through the perspective of other peoples.