

## Humanities 321: Major Works of Literature—The Modern World

### “Variants of Realism”

Instructor: Kelly Todd Brewer

Office Hours (ZOOM): Wednesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

#### **Zoom Meeting Room**

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/2527723710>

Meeting ID: 252 772 3710

Passcode: H241SU

Lecture/D: Monday 10:40-1:30

Lecture/D: Wednesday 10:40-1:30

Discussion: Thursday 12:40-1:30

#### Course description

Humanities 321 this summer focuses on predominant variants of a broad literary/artistic movement known as Realism and comparatively considers how depictions of everyday life, the ordinary, the political and cultural interpretations of “reality” changed over time in different geographies. Throughout the course, we will discuss how forms of Realism both reject and interact with tenets of Romanticism, the artistic movement that preceded it. The course will canvass the development of literary Realism from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1960s by taking three major writers as examples: Leo Tolstoy, Bertolt Brecht and Gabriel García Márquez. In addition to the literary texts, we will observe corresponding techniques in and “art” that attempted to depict life as it was with its social ills or tried to depict what social life “should be” based on the social and cultural background of the authors.

#### **The Goal of the Course**

By the end of the course, students will 1) have solid understanding of various modes of Realism and the socio-cultural and political dynamics to which they correspond 2) understand how Realism was co-opted for political purposes during the age of dictatorship—the 1930s, 3) recognize how Realism in “The Global South” took another path based on its indigenous traditions and practices far from the European metropole while still representing the social and cultural dynamics of class antagonisms and 4) demonstrate comprehension of the materials through a series of short papers and exams.

**Course Requirements:**

Students attend ALL classes having done the necessary preparatory work. Class participation is a substantial portion of the final grade. This is a seminar, which means that your regular, active participation is expected. Attendance is compulsory in lectures and discussion sections. Failure to attend more than two times will result in a reduction of points from the overall grade. Students who miss more than 9 hours of classes/discussions in total will automatically lose the participation grade. Medical reports are subject to the approval of the instructor. The instructor retains the right to decline a medical report.

PFD files are available in the “readings” section of the course on SUCourse.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are suspected of submitting work that is not your own, you will be either asked to do an oral exam, fail the assignment (potentially the course) or be brought up before the ethics committee of the university.**

**Students with disabilities** will be accommodated according to their special needs. In such cases, students should write to ([specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu)) in order to arrange for accommodations.

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**Breakdown of grades:**

30 % Response papers (10 points each)

20 % Midterm Exam

35 % Final Exam

15 % Participation and attendance

**Letter Grade Scale:**

Average	59	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96
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Letter Grade	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
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**Week 1:**

Introduction and overview: What are Realism and its variants?

Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

**Week 2:**

Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*

Bertolt Brecht, *The Caucasian Chalk*

*Circle Online take-home writing*

**assignment I**

**Week 3:**

Bertolt Brecht, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

Gabriel García Márquez, *Big Mama's Funeral*

**Online take-home writing assignment II**

**Week 4: Midterm Exam**

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Chapters 1-7

**Week 5:**

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* Chapters 8-14

**Week 6:**

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

*Solitude* Chapters 15-20

**Online take-home writing assignment III**