



## **HUM 321 MAJOR WORKS OF LITERATURE: THE MODERN WORLD**

Modernist thought, ideals, and literature that dominated the 20th century continue to influence our global landscape. In this course, we will delve into the myriad ways in which modernism has shaped our world—with a focus on literary themes, forms, and styles. As we discuss the modernist/postmodernist historical, social, and cultural context throughout the semester, we will examine a diverse range of literary works from around the globe by writers such as T.S. Eliot, Zora Neale Hurston, Virginia Woolf, Hanan Al-Shayk, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Nazlı Koca. Our goal will be to investigate the link between (post) modernism and race, gender, immigration, and postcolonialism as reflected in the selected works of 20th and 21st century literature. We will together explore how these works can help us understand the world and ourselves, as well as our individual and collective positions in our ever-evolving society.

\*\*\*This syllabus is a contract between the course team and the student. By taking this course, the student accepts the rules and requirements of the course.

**Instructor: Neriman Kuyucu**  
**Teaching Assistant: Alperen Narmanlı**  
**13:40-15:30 Wed in SOM G045**  
**12:40-13:30 Thu in FASS 1080**  
**Office Hours: 12:00-13:00 Wed or by appointment**

### **Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, students will:

- Become critical thinkers, careful readers, and better writers through reading, analysis, synthesis, discussion, and written assignments/exams.
- Develop an understanding of the characteristics of literary genres written, read, and performed in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries around the globe.
- Learn how to make intertextual connections between the different writers and texts covered in the course.
- Understand literature as an expression of human values within the context of major historical events and sociopolitical developments.
- Cultivate a greater appreciation of language as an artistic medium and of the aesthetic principles that shape literary works.



## Reading Materials

All assigned texts will be available on SuCourse either in digital format or as links to e-books available in IC.

## Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation	15
Close reading Presentation	15
In-class Reflection Assignments	15
Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	30

For more information, please see Course Information on SuCourse.

Your grade for this class will be determined by your successful completion of assigned readings, active discussion of class material, and application of learned skills and historical contexts and information to texts. All reading assignments are due on the dates listed on the course schedule. Medical reports are subject to the approval of the instructor. The instructor retains the right to decline a medical report.

## Attendance & Participation

Active participation is required by all students in the course. Your participation in discussions will constitute a significant percentage of your final grade, and you must be in class to participate. The more active, engaged students are in the classroom, the more fun and interesting this course will be. Students who have been present throughout the semester will be at a considerable advantage. Participation will be graded based on contribution in class discussions, pop up polls, activities during lectures and/or discussion, general involvement in the course, regular reading activity, observable progress throughout the term.

Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period. Attendance is taken on an hourly basis during the lectures. Students who miss more than twelve hours in total will automatically receive a N/A standing for this course.

## In-class assignments:

Throughout the semester, you will be asked to write five, two-paragraph reflections on some of the texts covered in class. You will see the dates scheduled for these assignments on the course schedule at the beginning of the semester. Your reflection should demonstrate a thoughtful reading of the text, your interpretation of the text, an acknowledgement of what confused or



challenged you in the piece, and connections you drew between this text and other assigned readings from the course. I want to stress that this is not simply an opportunity for summarizing or discussing what you like/dislike about a piece. You will be expected to do analytical work in your reflections. Please be reminded that you are responsible for all graded class work even if you are absent. If you are absent, you will receive a zero for that day's assignment. You should always bring your books and/or printed copied materials to class, as lectures and class discussions will focus very closely on details of the texts we read.

### **Midterm & Final**

Questions for the midterm and the final exam will be directly taken from our lectures and discussions. All midterm and final exams will be in-person, on campus. Students may be invited to an oral assessment of their exam and asked to provide oral answers to the exam questions in the following cases:

- If any part of an exam does not appear to be 100% student's original work
- If suspicious activity is recorded during the exam
- If there is a need for random authentication check

Such papers will not be graded until after the oral assessment.

### **Make-up Exams**

A make-up exam, written or oral, is given to students who cannot take an exam for reasons acceptable to the instructors. Students who do not attend the final and midterm exams with an excuse that is accepted by the instructors are entitled to have a make-up exam. These students must submit their supporting documents for their excuse (health report, etc.) within three weekdays after the exam and these supporting documents must be found valid by the instructors.

### **Grading**

Your letter grade as well as exam grades are based on your individual performance. Requests for extra work or other compensation will not be accepted. E-mails concerning such requests will not be replied. Letter grades are calculated according to the following letter grade scale and are not open to negotiation. HUM courses use the following scale for assigning letter grades:

A = 100-96 A- = 95-92 B+ = 91-88 B = 87-84 B- = 83-80 C+ = 79-76 C = 75-72 C- = 71-68

D+ = 67-64 D = 63-53 F = 52 and below



## **Conduct & Anti-discrimination Policy**

Common courtesy in the classroom is necessary. This, of course, goes both ways. I want to promote an open classroom environment where all topics pertaining to texts are open for discussion in a safe manner. For our classroom, this means there will be no insensitive or inappropriate remarks regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual preference, political affiliation, (dis)ability, national origin, etc. Additionally, please refrain from such incivilities as packing up before class is over, checking your phone in the classroom, making rude comments to the instructor or other students, and behaving in a disruptive manner in the classroom.

Please remember that it is pertinent to remember that human connection is the heart of a liberal arts education. We can't learn without you. Arrive prepared and ready to think out loud and share confusions and questions. Class meetings involve discussions in a variety of formats, some experimental and perhaps unfamiliar. These varied structures enable different forms of thinking and analysis; they also accommodate diverse personalities and learning styles. In all settings, collaborate thoughtfully and respectfully with your peers. When you disagree with or don't understand something you hear, ask questions. Your peers' questions are as important as mine, so listen carefully.

You can use electronics, laptops and tablets **ONLY**, in class; the use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade. • I know that many of you read online or take notes on your laptops or tablets. While electronics may be beneficial, it is pertinent to remember that electronics are a major distraction in class and disrupt class discussion. There is literature that supports this claim, one of which includes: Fried, C.B. (2008), In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning, *Computers & Education*, 50(3), 906-914.

- However, because we often read online, you are allowed to use electronics in class. If I find they become distracting, though, I hold the right to disallow them in class.

## **Academic Honesty Policy**

Major Works courses do not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense. The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee. For information on plagiarism, please see Course Information.

## **Students with Special Needs**

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let me know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD ([specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu)).



\*\*\*Please note that I reserve the right to make changes on this syllabus as needed. This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student. By taking this course, the student accepts the rules and requirements of the course.

I look forward to working with you this semester!

### **Tentative course schedule (subject to change)**

**See our course schedule here:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uh\\_IDWg8nqVT0cWPZ\\_tb57sdu8WtogWOrMmc8r3g0nI/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uh_IDWg8nqVT0cWPZ_tb57sdu8WtogWOrMmc8r3g0nI/edit)