

Dr. Lois Parkinson Zamora
SPRING 2006
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Turnitin.com Course ID: 1434804
Password: Magical

English 3322: The Contemporary Novel: Magical Realism Section 04869

On-line VISTA course, with accompanying DVD's

This course will focus on recent novels that have been described by the term "magical realism." Magical realism engages the usual devices of narrative realism, but with a difference: the supernatural is an ordinary matter, an everyday occurrence, accepted and integrated into the rationality and materiality of literary realism. We will read a number of novels from different cultural contexts in order to compare the workings of magical realism in North and South America and explore the diversity of its contemporary styles and subjects. We will also pay attention to the visual arts and their connection to the novels we are reading.

The DVD's that accompany this course were recorded last year, so there may be some topical information that does not relate to you, but the material covered in the lectures will be relevant to your reading. **There are two DVD lectures per week, except for week 2, when there are 3 lectures, and for the last two weeks of the semester, which have none.** Your reading quizzes and assignments will be posted on our VISTA site as noted on the syllabus. Requirements for the course are describe at the end of the syllabus. There are no face-to-face meetings for this course.

Posted on our VISTA site under Web Paper Projects are web sites relating to our course material; they were created by my students in previous semesters. Please browse through them and learn from them.

Required texts:

DVD's, available from UH Distance Education
Magical Realism: Theory, History, Community, eds. Lois Parkinson Zamora and Wendy B. Faris (Duke University Press, 1995)
Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude (Colombia)
Jorge Luis Borges, Labyrinths (Argentina)
Alejo Carpentier, The Kingdom of this World (Cuba)
Louise Erdrich, Tracks (USA)
Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony (USA)
Isabel Allende, The House of the Spirits (Chile)

First week:
January 17-20

What is Magical Realism?

Introduction to the course; Zamora and Faris, Introduction to Magical Realism, pp. 1-11.

Two short stories by Gabriel García Márquez, "The Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," and "Light is Like Water" (on VISTA)

Second week:
January 23-27

The Art Historical Beginnings of Magical Realism

Franz Roh, "Magical Realism: Post-Expressionism," in Magical Realism, pp. 15-31

Irene Guenther, "Magic Realism, New Objectivity, and the Arts during the Weimar Republic," in Magical Realism, pp. 33-74

SKIP AHEAD to the final DVD lecture for this class, where you'll find an interview with Irene Guenther, the author of the above essay, and further discussion of the origins of Magical Realism as an art historical category. This lecture is **in addition to** the two lectures for this week. The material on this DVD will be covered on the Reading Quiz for this week.

Images our VISTA site: Week 2:

Magical Realist Painting and Franz Roh

**Reading Quiz 1: Covering the reading assigned to this point;
Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be completed by
Sunday, January 29, at 10:00 pm.**

Third week:
Jan 30-Feb 3

Magical Realism and the Baroque

Read Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

Images on our VISTA site: Week 3:

The exuberant hyperbole of Baroque painting: angels, levitating virgins, and other miraculous episodes

Maps on our VISTA site: Please study them, and know where our authors come from.

Fourth week:
February 4-10

Gabriel García Márquez

Finish One Hundred Years of Solitude

Images on our VISTA site: Week 4:

The Paintings of Colombian artist Fernando Botero

**Reading Quiz 2: Covering One Hundred Years of Solitude;
Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be completed by
Sunday, February 12, at 10:00 pm**

Fifth week:
February 13-17

Jorge Luis Borges' Trompe l'oeil Tricks

Jon Thiem, "The Textualization of the Reader," in Magical Realism, pp. 235-247

Borges, Labyrinths, "Partial Magic in the Quixote"
Borges, "When Fiction Lives in Fiction" (on VISTA)
Julio Cortázar, "Continuity of Parks" (on VISTA)
Woody Allen, "The Kugelmas Episode" (on VISTA)

Borges, Labyrinths: "The Library of Babel," "The Zahir," "The Circular Ruins," "The Secret Miracle," "The God's Script," "The Aleph" (on VISTA)

Images on our VISTA site: Week 5:
Trompe l'oeil Painting and Borges

Sixth week:
February 20-24

Jorge Luis Borges' Labyrinths

Borges, Labyrinths: "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius," "The Garden of Forking Paths," "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote," "The Fearful Sphere of Pascal," "Funes the Memorious," "The Wall and the Books," "Borges and I"

Images on our VISTA site: Week 6:
Argentine artist Xul Solar and Borges

Reading Quiz 3: Covering the work of Borges and Jon Thiem's essay; Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be completed by Sunday, February 26, at 10:00 pm.

Seventh week:
Feb 27-Mar 3

New World Baroque: Two essays by Alejo Carpentier

Alejo Carpentier, "The Marvelous Real in America," in Magical Realism, pp. 75-88; "The Baroque and the Magical Real," in Magical Realism, pp. 89-108

Images on our VISTA site for Week 7:
New World Baroque Art and Architecture

Eighth week:

Lo real maravilloso americano

March 6-10

Alejo Carpentier, The Kingdom of this World

SPRING BREAK

March 13-17

Ninth week: North American Indigenous Culture I

March 20-24

Read Louise Erdrich, Tracks

Reading Quiz 4: Covering Alejo Carpentier's essays and his The Kingdom of this World, and Louise Erdrich's Tracks; Closed book, 1 hour timed: to be completed by Sunday, March 26, at 10:00 pm

Tenth week: North American Indigenous Culture II

March 27-31

Read Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Reading Quiz 5: Covering Ceremony ; Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be completed by Sunday, April 2, at

10:00 pm

Eleventh week: Magical Feminism: Isabel Allende

April 3-7

Isabel Allende, The House of the Spirits

Twelfth week: Magical Feminism II

April 10-14

The House of the Spirits

Images our VISTA site for Week 12:

The Spanish/Mexican Painter Remedios Varo

In the Web Paper Organizer on our Home Page, go to **nmunoz2** to read/see more about Remedios Varo

Reading Quiz 6: Covering The House of the Spirits ; Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be completed by Sunday, April 16, at 10:00 pm

Thirteenth week: Magical Feminism III

April 17-21

P. Gabrielle Foreman, "Past-On Stories: History and the Magically Real, Morrison and Allende on Call," in Magical Realism, pp. 285-

303

Lois Zamora, "Magical Romance/Magical Realism: Ghosts in U.S. and Latin American Fiction," in Magical Realism, pp. 497-549

Fourteenth week: Comparative Magical Realism in the Americas
April 24-28

Reading Quiz 7: Covering the essays by Foreman and Zamora (these essays are not discussed on DVD); Closed book, 30 minutes, timed: to be posted on SUNDAY, April 23, and completed by WEDNESDAY, April 26, at 10:00 pm

Last Day of Class: Turn in Final Paper to Turnitin.com by midnight, Monday, May 1 May 1

Final Exam: To be taken between May 3 and May 11 by midnight

Reading is required, and will be covered in the **reading quizzes and the final examination**, along with the material covered in lectures on the DVD's that accompanies this course. Sometimes the lecture will not be totally done, and you'll need to go to the next DVD, but you should be able to tell if I'm not quite done discussing a certain work

Reading quizzes are CLOSED BOOK--do not consult anything while taking the quizzes. They will be posted on the website as noted on the syllabus. Except for Quiz 7, they will be posted on Thursday, to be completed by Sunday at 10:00pm. They are simple, short answer questions on plot, character, theme, etc., designed to assure that you have completed the reading. Quizzes are usually comprised of four questions, each one counting for one point if correctly answered. In one case, the quiz will have six questions. **Please note that the quizzes are the largest percentage of your grade, because they attest to your careful reading of the assigned texts. It is imperative that you prepare for them by reading carefully, taking notes on your reading and on the lectures, and attending to the visual images and other materials on the VISTA site. You cannot do well in this course if you don't do well on the reading quizzes.**

The final examination will consist of essay questions and passages from the texts we have read, which I will ask you to identify and discuss. Passages will be drawn largely (but not entirely) from those passages discussed in the lectures on the DVD's that accompany this course. The visual arts discussed in the course will also be covered on the final exam. The exam will be timed to last three hours.

Final Paper: 5 to 7 pages of literary critical analysis on a topic that engages Magical Realism in selected work(s) of fiction, with the possibility of extending your discussion to the visual arts and/or film. Please turn it in to Turnitin.com; class ID and password are on the heading of the syllabus.

Turnitin.com: I will ask you to turn in your final papers to the web site turnitin.com, to assure that your text is properly documented. Class ID and password are at the top of this syllabus.

Grades are determined as follows:

Final exam 30%

Final paper
Quizzes

30%
40%