

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Summer 2019 Graduate Course Descriptions

SUMMER I (5/28-7/6)

EGL 587.30 (62313) Topics in Race, Ethnic Studies: Magical Realism in the Global South

This course will examine notions of reality and its artistic representation in works that have been described as “magical realism.” Magical realism refers to narratives in which occurrences of the fantastic, the supernatural, the magical are taken as commonplace, accepted and integrated into the rational and material world of literary realism. By containing the binary between the rational and magical worlds—the term itself an oxymoron—magical realism allows for understanding categories without relying on absolute truth or fixed definitions. Instead, the artistic production leaves space for many truths to exist simultaneously.

Although most texts will come from the Latin American tradition with which magical realism is most often associated, we will read a number of novels, short stories, and theoretical pieces from different cultural contexts in the global south in order to compare the workings of magical realism from within different contact zones and explore the diversity of its philosophical, political, and literary implications. We will also discuss visual arts and their connection to the works we are reading. Possible authors include: Gabriel García Márquez, Jorge Luis Borges, Isabel Allende, Cristina Garcia, Ben Okri, Toni Morrison and others. This class operates completely online, and, as such, will require a great deal of reading and writing for discussions, formal assignments, and papers.

LEC 30

ONLINE

NICOLE GALANTE

SUMMER II (7/8-8/17)

EGL 584.30 (62497) Topics in Genre Studies: Shakespeare’s Drama

This course is designed to re-introduce graduate students to Shakespeare’s plays as literature, in history, and as performance. Reading almost exclusively plays, we will concentrate on bringing the verse to life, imagining the historical stagings and contexts, and discussing and analyzing recent films. This class seeks to understand Shakespeare with and through the continued fascination with interpreting and retelling the plays. This history of remounting and recycling both comes from and creates the Shakespeare brand. We see ourselves—our self, our world, our history and our future--through his

plays. Some of the questions we will be asking are:

- What is our understanding of the story and themes of each play?
- How does “reading” the plays through performance impact our understanding of the play and our understanding of authorship?
- How does each play—in its historical context and in the context of its reproduction or retelling—illuminate the “age and body of the time?”

To address these questions we will read and discuss the plays in conversation with contemporary films, records of theatrical productions, or new plays based on Shakespeare

LEC 30

ONLINE

AMY COOK
