

## Nobel Prizewinners

<http://nobel-s14.blogs.rutgers.edu>

MW 4 (Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:10–2:30 p.m.) in Murray 204

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Office hours: Mondays 3–5 p.m. in Murray 031



### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar considers global Anglophone fiction since 1900 through the lens of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Surveying a selection of the fiction writers in English who have won the prize, from Rudyard Kipling (1907) to Alice Munro (2013), the course traces the development of a fascinating, sometimes delightfully bizarre canon of prose-narrative world literature in English. This development tells us as much about the changing definitions of “world literature”—and the changing situation of the Anglophone novel within world literature—as it does about individual writers and their choices. We will pay significant attention to individual novels and stories, but also to the paraphernalia of the prize, including Nobel lectures, medals, and outraged press commentary. Major themes: writing from, against, and after empire; the idea of the “universal”; realist and experimental forms; popularity and difficulty; and the politics of the world stage. The primary readings are Nobel-laureate fictions in English by writers from five continents: Rudyard Kipling, Rabindranath Tagore, William Faulkner, Patrick White, Nadine Gordimer, V. S. Naipaul, J. M. Coetzee, Doris Lessing, and Alice Munro. Secondary readings include selections from scholarship on world-literary institutions.

### LEARNING GOALS

1. Analyze individual prose fiction texts from multiple English-language traditions in terms of their themes, formal characteristics, media, and social contexts.
2. Construct literary-historical narratives synthesizing readings separated chronologically and geographically.
3. Join the academic conversation about literary institutions and literary value.
4. Write researched interpretive arguments about fictional texts informed by debates about world literature.

This course also satisfies the WCr Core Curriculum goal: Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING****10% PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and active, thoughtful participation in discussion are required. The purpose of a seminar is for us to learn by addressing difficult questions together. This requires every student to take the intellectual risk of offering observations, ideas, and arguments in class in response to one another and to me. You aren't supposed to know all the answers in advance—but you are required to make your best effort to figure things out as we go along, and to work with your classmates to help them do so as well. Lateness, lack of preparation, or disruptive behavior during seminar will affect the participation mark.

Two absences are allowed without penalty. If you fall ill or miss class for a family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible; you can make up for an excused absence. Students can do work to make up for unexcused absences only at my discretion. The *maximum* participation mark if you have three absences is 3.0; if you have four, 2.0. Missing more than four classes without excuse will normally result in a failing grade for the course (not just a 0 for participation).

**5% INFORMAL WRITING**

Students are required to contribute to a course blog five times in the semester. Individual entries are graded on a credit/no credit basis; it is not possible to receive credit for a late blog entry. Grading scale: No more than one entry missing, 4.0; two or three entries missing, 2.0; four or five entries missing, 0.

**15% SHORT PAPER**

A short paper (5–7 pp.) on Kipling, Tagore, or Faulkner is due February 28.

**20% RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Over the course of three sessions near the end of term, each student will give a short talk on their research for the final paper. The talk should focus on presenting and interpreting textual evidence within a coherent argumentative frame. The presentation need not be as formal or detailed as the final paper.

**50% FINAL PAPER**

The final paper (16–20 pp.) is a researched interpretive argument about a particular problem or theme in one or two of the authors studied during the course. The specific topic is to be developed over the course of the semester. Both thoughtful analysis of primary texts and meaningful engagement with secondary sources are required. A partial draft (not separately graded) is due one week after the day of the research presentation; the final paper is due May 9 (one- or two-day extensions possible).

#### GRADING STANDARDS

Grades will be given on the four-point scale as specified [in the Undergraduate Catalog](#). In converting the final numerical score to a letter, the equivalents in the Catalog are taken as the *maxima* of intervals open on the left and closed on the right. Thus A corresponds to scores strictly greater than 3.5 and less than or equal to 4.0, B+ to scores greater than 3.0 and less than or equal to 3.5, B to scores greater than 2.5 and less than or equal to 3.0, and so on. There are no “minus” grades. The general standards for grades are as follows:

A range (3.5, 4.0]: Outstanding. The student’s work demonstrates thorough mastery of course materials and skills.

B range (2.5, 3.5]: Good. The student’s work demonstrates serious engagement with all aspects of the course but incomplete mastery of course materials and skills.

C range (1.5, 2.5]: Satisfactory. The student’s work satisfies requirements but shows significant problems or major gaps in mastery of course material.

D (0.5, 1.5]: Poor or minimal pass. The student completes the basic course requirements, but the student’s work is frequently unsatisfactory in several major areas.

F [0, 0.5]: Failure. Student has not completed all course requirements or turns in consistently unsatisfactory work.

The final grade will be based on a numerical score but is subject to my discretion. Unsatisfactory work in all areas of the course will result in an F even if the numerical score corresponds to a passing grade. It is also not possible to pass the course without completing the short paper, presentation, and research paper.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students and instructors have a duty to each other and to our community to abide by norms of academic honesty and responsibility. To present something as your own original writing when it is not is plagiarism. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are serious violations of trust. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will have severe consequences, in accordance with the University Policy on Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct. For details about the University’s academic integrity policies, please see [academicintegrity.rutgers.edu](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu).

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All reasonable accommodation will be given to students with disabilities. Students who may require accommodation should speak with me at the start of the semester. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services ([disabilityservices.rutgers.edu](http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu); 848-445-6800).

## SCHEDULE

See “Readings” for a bibliography of the assigned texts, some of which are online.

## I. WHAT IS THE NOBEL PRIZE?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22.

Introduction. Nobel’s will and the list of laureates.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27. (GROUP 1: BLOG 1.)

Casanova, *The World Republic of Letters*, 34–44, 146–57.

English, *The Economy of Prestige*, 1–14, 50–62, 297–312.

Ghosh, “The March of the Novel through History.”

## II. RUDYARD KIPLING (1907)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29.

Kipling, “The Story of Muhammad Din”; “Only a Subaltern”; “Baa Baa, Black Sheep”; “The Man Who Would Be King.”

*Rudyard Kipling - Documentary*.

Wirsén, “Award Ceremony Speech.”

Research suggestion: *Kim*.

## III. RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1913)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3. (GROUP 2: BLOG 1.) SNOW DAY.

Tagore, “The Living and the Dead”; “The Postmaster”; “The Hungry Stones.”

Tagore, *Gitanjali* (Alam versions); cf. Tagore’s versions in *Gitanjali*, nos. 96, 40, 39, 24, 23.

Sen, “Tagore and His India.”

Tagore, “The Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech.”

Hjärne, “Award Ceremony Speech.”

Optional: Singh, “The Desire for Motion.”

Research suggestion: *The Home and the World*.

## IV. WILLIAM FAULKNER (1949)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5. CLASS CANCELLED.

Read Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, “April Seventh, 1928.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

Discussion of Tagore.  
Continue reading Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12. (GROUP 1: BLOG 2.)

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. (GROUP 2: BLOG 2.)

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.  
“The Nobel Prize in Literature 1949”: all materials.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*.  
Sartre, “On *The Sound and the Fury*.”  
Davis, *Faulkner’s “Negro.”*  
Research suggestion: the reception of Faulkner.

V. PATRICK WHITE (1973)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24. (NO BLOGGING.)

White, *Voss*, chaps. 1–3.  
White, “Patrick White - Biographical.”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

White, *Voss*, chaps. 1–4.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28. SHORT PAPER DUE.

MONDAY, MARCH 3. (GROUP 1: BLOG 3.)

White, *Voss*, chaps. 1–9.  
Lundkvist, “Award Ceremony Speech.”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5.

White, *Voss*, chaps. 1–11.  
Research paper: realktalk.

MONDAY, MARCH 10. (GROUP 2: BLOG 3.)

White, *Voss*.

Bandopadhyay, “It overflows all maps.”

VI. NADINE GORDIMER (1991)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

Gordimer, *July's People*, 1–49.

Stanford, *Interview with Nadine Gordimer*.

Gordimer, “Writing and Being.”

(MARCH 15–23. SPRING RECESS.)

MONDAY, MARCH 24. (GROUP 1: BLOG 4.)

Gordimer, *July's People*.

Clingman, *The Novels of Nadine Gordimer*.

Research suggestion: the political novelist.

VII. V. S. NAIPAUL (2001)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26.

Naipaul, *Miguel Street*, chaps. 1–8.

Naipaul, “Two Worlds.”

MONDAY, MARCH 31. (GROUP 2: BLOG 4.)

Naipaul, *Miguel Street*.

Naipaul, *The Enigma of Arrival*, excerpt. (Research suggestion: the rest.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 1. RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2.

Naipaul, *Miguel Street*.

Thieme, “Naipaul’s Nobel.”

VIII. J. M. COETZEE (2003)

MONDAY, APRIL 7. (GROUP 1: BLOG 5.)

Coetzee, *Disgrace*.

Research suggestion: *Elizabeth Costello*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9.

Coetzee, *Disgrace*.

Coetzee, "He and His Man."

Wästberg, "Presentation Speech."

Wästberg, *J. M. Coetzee - Prize Presentation* (video, for Coetzee's reaction.)

McDonald, "Disgrace Effects."

IX. PRESENTATIONS

MONDAY, APRIL 14.

Presentations (Group A).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16.

Presentations (Group B).

MONDAY, APRIL 21.

Presentations (Group C).

Partial drafts (Group A).

X. DORIS LESSING (2007)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23.

Lessing, *Fifth Child*.

Research suggestion (before April): *The Golden Notebook*.

Partial drafts (Group B).

MONDAY, APRIL 28.

Lessing, *Fifth Child*.

Lessing, "On Not Winning the Nobel Prize" (other Nobel materials optional).

Powell, "Speech to the Conservative Association, Birmingham."

Partial drafts (Group C).

XI. ALICE MUNRO (2013)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30.

Munro, *Dear Life*.

Munro and Åsberg, *Alice Munro: In Her Own Words*.

Research suggestion (before April): read across the career.

MONDAY, MAY 5. (GROUP 2: BLOG 5.)

Munro, *Dear Life*.

Conclusion.

FRIDAY, MAY 9. PAPERS DUE AT 5 P.M.

#### READINGS

ISBNs are included to help students ordering books online.

- Bandopadhyay, Deb Narayan. "It overflows all maps': Culture, Nationalism, and Frontier in Patrick White's 'Voss.'" *Antipodes* 23, no. 2 (December 2009): 125–31. <https://login.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lfh&AN=47776448&site=ehost-live>.
- Casanova, Pascale. *The World Republic of Letters*. Translated by M. B. DeBevoise. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004. Excerpt on Sakai.
- Clingman, Stephen. *The Novels of Nadine Gordimer: History from the Inside*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1986. Excerpt on Sakai.
- Coetzee, J. M. "He and His Man." 2003. [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/coetzee-lecture-e.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/coetzee-lecture-e.html).
- Coetzee, J.M. *Disgrace*. New York: Penguin, 1999. ISBN: 9780143115281.
- Davis, Thadious M. *Faulkner's "Negro": Art and the Southern Context*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983. Excerpt on Sakai.
- English, James F. *The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards, and the Circulation of Cultural Value*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. Excerpt on Sakai.
- Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*. New York: Vintage, 1991. ISBN: 9780679732242.
- Ghosh, Amitav. "The March of the Novel through History: The Testimony of My Grandfather's Bookcase." *Kenyon Review* 20, no. 2 (April 1998): 13–24. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4337671>. See also <http://www.amitavghosh.com/essays/bookcase.html>.
- Gordimer, Nadine. *July's People*. London: Penguin, 1982. ISBN: 9780140061406.
- . "Writing and Being." December 7, 1991. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-lecture.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-lecture.html).
- Hjärne, Harald. "Award Ceremony Speech." December 10, 1913. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1913/press.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1913/press.html).
- Kipling, Rudyard. "Baa Baa, Black Sheep." In *Under the Deodars, The Phantom 'Rickshaw, Wee Willie Winkie*, 251–87. Online alternative.
- . "Baa Baa, Black Sheep." In *The Man Who Would Be King, and Other Stories*, 170–97.
- . "Only a Subaltern." In *Under the Deodars, The Phantom 'Rickshaw, Wee Willie Winkie*, 96–113. Online alternative.
- . "Only a Subaltern." In *The Man Who Would Be King, and Other Stories*, 155–69.
- . "The Man Who Would Be King." In *Under the Deodars, The Phantom 'Rickshaw, Wee Willie Winkie*, 189–236. Online alternative.
- . "The Man Who Would Be King." In *The Man Who Would Be King, and Other Stories*, 244–79.

- Kipling, Rudyard. *The Man Who Would Be King, and Other Stories*. Edited by Louis L. Cornell. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780199536474.
- . “The Story of Muhammad Din.” In *Plain Tales from the Hills*, 297–301. London: Macmillan, 1899. Internet Archive. <http://archive.org/details/plaintalesfromh02kiplgoog>. Not in *The Man Who Would Be King*.
- . *Under the Deodars, The Phantom 'Rickshaw, Wee Willie Winkie*. Doubleday, Page, 1914. Internet Archive. <http://archive.org/details/underdeodarsphao2kiplgoog>. Online source for stories assigned from *The Man Who Would Be King*.
- Lessing, Doris. “On Not Winning the Nobel Prize.” December 7, 2007. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2007/lessing-lecture\\_en.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2007/lessing-lecture_en.html).
- . *The Fifth Child*. Vintage. New York: Vintage, 1989. ISBN: 9780679721826.
- Lundkvist, Artur. “Award Ceremony Speech.” 1973. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1973/presentation-speech.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1973/presentation-speech.html).
- McDonald, Peter D. “Disgrace Effects.” *Interventions* 4, no. 3 (2002): 321–30. <http://dx.doi.org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/10.1080/1369801022000013851>. To be available either on Sakai or via Rutgers journal subscription.
- Munro, Alice. *Dear Life: Stories*. New York: Vintage, 2013. ISBN: 9780307743725.
- Munro, Alice, and Stefan Åsberg. *Alice Munro: In Her Own Words*. Aired December 7, 2013. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2013/munro-lecture.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2013/munro-lecture.html). Running time: 29 mins. A transcript is also available on nobelprize.org.
- Naipaul, V. S. *The Enigma of Arrival: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 1988. Excerpt on Sakai.
- . “Two Worlds.” December 7, 2001. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2001/naipaul-lecture-e.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2001/naipaul-lecture-e.html). Available as text or video.
- Naipaul, V. S. *Miguel Street*. New York: Vintage, 2002. ISBN: 0375713875.
- Powell, Enoch. “Speech to the Conservative Association, Birmingham.” April 20, 1968. <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/access/content/group/1f7fod42-0520-47f4-a11e-ce98foe546e6/powell.pdf>.
- Rudyard Kipling - Documentary*. Nobel Media AB. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1907/kipling-docu.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1907/kipling-docu.html). A short clip. The audio cuts out.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. “On *The Sound and the Fury*: Temporality in Faulkner.” In *We Have Only This Life to Live: Selected Essays, 1939–1975*, translated by Chris Turner, 17–25. 1939. New York: New York Review Books, 2013. Available on Sakai.
- Sen, Amartya. “Tagore and His India.” *The New York Review of Books* (June 1997). <http://www.nybooks.com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/articles/archives/1997/jun/26/tagore-and-his-india/>.
- Singh, Amardeep. “‘The Desire for Motion’: Tagore’s Three Voices” (January 1, 2012). <http://www.openlettersmonthly.com/the-desire-for-motion-tagores-three-voices/>. Optional.
- Stanford, Simon. *Interview with Nadine Gordimer*. Aired April 2005. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-interview.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1991/gordimer-interview.html). Running time: 36 mins.
- Tagore, Rabindranath. *Gitanjali: (Song Offerings)*. Translated by Rabindranath Tagore. London: Macmillan, 1913. Internet Archive. <http://archive.org/details/gitanjalisongoffo0tagouoft>.
- . *Gitanjali*. Selections. In *The Essential Tagore*, edited by Fakrul Alam and Radha Chakravarty, translated by Fakrul Alam, 258–62. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011. Available on Sakai.
- . “Living or Dead?” In “The Hungry Stones,” 193–214. Print alternative recommended.
- . *Selected Short Stories*. Translated by William Radice. London: Penguin, 2005. ISBN: 9780140449839.

- Tagore, Rabindranath. *The Essential Tagore*. Edited by Fakrul Alam and Radha Chakravarty. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011.
- . “The Hungry Stones.” In *The Hungry Stones, and Other Stories*, 3–28. Print alternative recommended.
- . “The Hungry Stones.” In *Selected Short Stories*, 236–45.
- . *The Hungry Stones, and Other Stories*. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Internet Archive. <http://archive.org/details/hungrystonesotheootagoiala>. Print alternative recommended.
- . “The Living and the Dead.” In *Selected Short Stories*, 31–41.
- . “The Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech.” In *The Essential Tagore*, 182–86. Available on Sakai.
- . “The Postmaster.” In *Mashi, and Other Stories*, 159–69. London: Macmillan, 1918. Internet Archive. <https://archive.org/details/mashiotherstorieootagoiala>. Print alternative recommended.
- . “The Postmaster.” In *Selected Short Stories*, 42–47.
- “The Nobel Prize in Literature 1949.” [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1949/](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1949/). All Faulkner materials on the site are assigned.
- Thieme, John. “Naipaul’s Nobel.” *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 37, no. 1 (March 2002): 1–7. <http://jcl.sagepub.com.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/content/37/1/1>.
- Wästberg, Per. *J. M. Coetzee - Prize Presentation*. Aired December 10, 2003. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/coetzee-prize-present.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/coetzee-prize-present.html).
- . “Presentation Speech.” December 10, 2003. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/presentation-speech.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2003/presentation-speech.html).
- White, Patrick. “Patrick White - Biographical.” 1973. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1973/white-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1973/white-bio.html).
- . *Voss*. New York: Penguin, 1957. ISBN: 9780143105688.
- Wirsén, C.D. af. “Award Ceremony Speech.” December 10, 1907. [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1907/press.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1907/press.html).

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