

Nobel Prizewinners

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00–3:20 p.m., in AB 2250
Professor Andrew Goldstone (andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu)
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
<https://andrewgoldstone.com/nobel24>

This seminar considers global fiction in English through the lens of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Surveying a selection of the fiction writers in English who have won the prize, 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 situation of the English-language novel as it does about individual writers. Discussion focuses on individual novels and stories, but also on the paraphernalia of the prize, including Nobel lectures, Swedish royalty photo ops, and outraged media 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.

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.

BOOKS TO BUY

The principal course texts are available at Barnes & Noble, or order elsewhere (search using the ISBNs below). Other printed editions (not e-books) are usually fine, but please check with me.

Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*. New York: Vintage, 1991. ISBN: 9780679732242.

Gordimer, Nadine. *July's People*. New York: Penguin, 1981. ISBN: 9780140061406.

Gurnah, Abdulrazak. *Paradise*. New York: New Press, 1994. ISBN: 9781565841635.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day*. New York: Vintage, 1989. ISBN: 9780679731726.

Munro, Alice. *Dear Life: Stories*. New York: Vintage, 2013. ISBN: 9780307743725.

SCHEDULE

Readings are to be completed by the day they are listed under. Fiction readings should be brought to class *in print* for discussion. Whenever we begin studying a new writer, please read over the basic biographical facts available on the nobelprize.org pages devoted to them. The course schedule may change as term goes on. The most up-to-date syllabus will always be available via andrewgoldstone.com/nobel24.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17. INTRODUCTION.

Nobel's will and the list of laureates.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22. RUDYARD KIPLING (1907).

Kipling, "The Story of Muhammad Din."

Kipling, "The Man Who Would Be King"

Wirsén, "Award Ceremony Speech."

Pionke, "The Epistemological Problem."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24. PRIZE THEORY.

Ghosh, "The March of the Novel through History."

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

English, *The Economy of Prestige*, 1–14, 50–62, 187–96, 297–312.

Leypoldt, "Civil Sacred."

MONDAY, JANUARY 29. WILLIAM FAULKNER (1949).

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, pt. 1 ("April Seventh, 1928").

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31.

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, pts. 1–2.
Sartre, “On *The Sound and the Fury*.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, complete.
Faulkner, “Banquet Speech.”
Hellström, “Award Ceremony Speech.”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, continued, including the appendix.
Faulkner, “An Introduction to *The Sound and the Fury*.”
Saldívar, “Faulkner and the World Culture of the Global South.”
Wall, “Sound and Fury.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12. NADINE GORDIMER (1991).

Gordimer, *July's People*, 1–85.
Gordimer, “Writing and Being.”
Allén, “Award Ceremony Speech.”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

Gordimer, *July's People*, 1–122.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

Gordimer, *July's People*, complete.
Clingman, *The Novels of Nadine Gordimer*, 1–7, 193–204.
Powell, “Equality or Unity?” 225–30, 234–39.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

Gordimer, *July's People*.
Gordimer, “Six Feet of the Country.”
Gordimer, “Loot.”

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26. TONI MORRISON (1993).

Morrison, “Recitatif.” Morrison said she hated writing short stories.
Gurnah, “1993, Stockholm.”
Morrison, “Nobel Lecture.”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28. V.S. NAIPAUL (2001).

Naipaul, "One Out of Many."

Naipaul, "Two Worlds."

Casanova, *The World Republic of Letters*, 205–212.

Thieme, "Naipaul's Nobel."

MONDAY, MARCH 4. J.M. COETZEE (2003).

Coetzee, "The Novel in Africa."

Coetzee, "He and His Man."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6. DORIS LESSING (2007).

Lessing, "To Room Nineteen."

Lessing, "On Not Winning the Nobel Prize."

(THURSDAY, MARCH 7.)

Short paper due.

(SATURDAY, MARCH 9. SPRING RECESS BEGINS.)

MONDAY, MARCH 18. ALICE MUNRO (2013).

Munro, *Dear Life*.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20.

Munro, *Dear Life*.

MONDAY, MARCH 25. KAZUO ISHIGURO (2017).

Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 3–110.

Teodorczuk, "Why Jeff Bezos Was Estatic."

Brouillette, "Tragedy Mistaken for Management Theory."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27.

Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 3–141.

Ishiguro, "My Twentieth-Century Evening, and Other Small Breakthroughs."

MONDAY, APRIL 1.

Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, complete.

Walkowitz, *Born Translated*, chap. 2.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3.

Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*.
Ivory, *The Remains of the Day*.

(THURSDAY, APRIL 4.)

Paper proposals due.

MONDAY, APRIL 8. ABDULRAZAK GURNAH (2021).

Gurnah, *Paradise*, 1–92.
Gurnah, “Writing and Place.”

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.

Gurnah, *Paradise*, 1–128.
Gurnah, “Writing.”

MONDAY, APRIL 15.

Gurnah, *Paradise*, complete.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17.

Gurnah, *Paradise*.
Falk, “That Little Space.”

MONDAY, APRIL 22.

Presentations.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24.

Presentations, continued.

MONDAY, APRIL 29. A GLIMPSE OUT OF ENGLISH.

nobelprize.org materials on Annie Ernaux (2022 laureate):
“Prose” (two brief excerpts from her works).
“Nobel Lecture.”
nobelprize.org materials on Jon Fosse (2023 laureate):
“Prose” (a brief excerpt from his work).
“A Silent Language” (Nobel lecture).

(TUESDAY, MAY 7.)

Final paper due.

GRADING

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grade} = & 0.15(\text{participation}) + 0.25(\text{paper 1}) \\ & + 0.1(\text{presentation}) + 0.50(\text{paper 2}) \end{aligned}$$

Each grade is 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 used as follows:

$3.5 < \text{grade} \leq 4.0$	A
$3.0 < \text{grade} \leq 3.5$	B+
$2.5 < \text{grade} \leq 3.0$	B
$2.0 < \text{grade} \leq 2.5$	C+
$1.0 < \text{grade} \leq 2.0$	C
$0.5 < \text{grade} \leq 1.0$	D
$\text{grade} \leq 0.5$	F

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.

PARTICIPATION

Attendance and active, thoughtful participation in discussion are required. Lateness, lack of preparation (including coming to class without the assigned text in printed form), and disruptive behavior affect the participation mark.

If you miss three or more classes without excuse, the *maximum* participation mark you can receive is 3.0 out of 4.0. Missing more than five meetings without an excuse will normally result in a failing grade for the course.

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.

SHORT PAPER

A short paper on Kipling, Faulkner, or Gordimer will be due before spring break.

PRESENTATION AND FINAL PAPER

The main assignment is a paper on one or more of the assigned writers, considering both texts assigned in the course and further sources, literary and scholarly. An in-class presentation on work in progress will be separately graded.

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. For the purposes of this course, I will also consider any use of so-called “AI” tools for generating text for assignments as a violation of academic integrity. 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.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All reasonable accommodation will be given to students with disabilities. Students who may require accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services (ods.rutgers.edu; 848-445-6800) and speak with me at the start of the semester.

OTHER READINGS AVAILABLE VIA CANVAS

- Allén, Sture. “Award Ceremony Speech,” December 7, 1991. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1991/ceremony-speech/>.
- Brouillette, Sarah. “Tragedy Mistaken for Management Theory: On Kazuo Ishiguro and the Nobel Prize in Literature,” October 8, 2017. <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/news/3430-tragedy-mistaken-for-management-theory-on-kazuo-ishiguro-and-the-nobel-prize-in-literature>.
- Casanova, Pascale. *The World Republic of Letters*. Translated by M. B. DeBevoise. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Clingman, Stephen. *The Novels of Nadine Gordimer: History from the Inside*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1986.
- Coetzee, J. M. “He and His Man,” December 7, 2003. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2003/coetzee/lecture/>.
- . “The Novel in Africa.” In *Elizabeth Costello*. New York: Viking, 2003.
- English, James F. *The Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards, and the Circulation of Cultural Value*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005.
- Falk, Erik. “‘That Little Space’: Locating Abdulrazak Gurnah in the Global Literary Marketplace.” *Nordic Journal of English Studies* 19, no. 4 (2020): 150–68. <https://doi.org/10.35360/njes.606>.
- Faulkner, William. “An Introduction to *The Sound and the Fury*.” *Mississippi Quarterly* 26, no. 3 (1973). <https://login.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fscholarly-journals%2Fwilliam-faulkner-introduction-sound-fury%2Fdocview%2F1301816835%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D13626>.

- Faulkner, William. "Banquet Speech," December 10, 1950. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1949/faulkner/speech/>.
- 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>.
- Gordimer, Nadine. *Life Times: Stories, 1952–2007*. New York: Penguin, 2011.
- . "Loot." In *Life Times: Stories, 1952–2007*.
- . "Six Feet of the Country." In *Life Times: Stories, 1952–2007*.
- . "Writing and Being," December 7, 1991. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1991/gordimer/lecture/>.
- Gurnah, Abdulrazak. "1993, Stockholm: A Prize for Toni Morrison." In *The Edinburgh Companion to Twentieth-Century Literatures in English*, edited by Brian McHale and Randall Stevenson, 263–272. 2006. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1r2ocr.25>.
- . "Writing," December 7, 2021. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2021/gurnah/lecture/>.
- . "Writing and Place." *World Literature Today* 78, no. 2 (August 2004): 26–28. <https://doi.org/10.2307/40158389>.
- Hellström, Gustaf. "Award Ceremony Speech," December 10, 1950. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1949/ceremony-speech/>.
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. "My Twentieth-Century Evening, and Other Small Breakthroughs," December 7, 2017. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2017/ishiguro/lecture/>.
- Ivory, James, dir. *The Remains of the Day*. Columbia Pictures, 1993.
- Kipling, Rudyard. "The Man Who Would Be King." In *Wee Willie Winkie, Under the Deodars, The Phantom Rickshaw, and Other Stories*, 200–254. London: Macmillan, 1926. HathiTrust. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015000537186>.
- . "The Story of Muhammad Din." In *Plain Tales from the Hills*, 297–301. London: Macmillan, 1904. HathiTrust. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433074866967>.
- Lessing, Doris. "On Not Winning the Nobel Prize," December 7, 2007. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2007/lessing/lecture/>.
- . "To Room Nineteen." In *Stories*. New York: Vintage, 1980.
- Leypoldt, Günter. "Civil Sacred: The Nobel and the Laureate Position in Cultural Space." *Poetics* 101 (December 2023). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2023.101826>.
- Morrison, Toni. "Nobel Lecture," December 7, 1993. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1993/morrison/lecture/>.
- . "Recitatif." In *Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women*, edited by Amiri Baraka and Amina Baraka, 243–61. New York: Quill, 1983.
- Munro, Alice, and Stefan Åsberg. "Alice Munro: In Her Own Words." http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/2013/munro-lecture.html.
- Naipaul, V. S. "One Out of Many." *Atlantic Monthly*, April 1971, 72–82. <https://cdn.theatlantic.com/media/archives/1971/04/227-4/132646565.pdf>.
- . "Two Worlds," December 17, 2001. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2001/naipaul/lecture/>.
- Pionke, Albert D. "The Epistemological Problem of British India in Rudyard Kipling's 'The Man Who Would Be King.'" *Victorian Literature and Culture* 42, no. 3 (September 2014): 335–50. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1060150314000023>.
- Powell, Edward. "Equality or Unity? Black Consciousness, White Solidarity, and the New South Africa in Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* and *July's People*." *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 54, no. 2 (June 2019): 225–42. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021989416687349>.

- Saldívar, Ramón. "Faulkner and the World Culture of the Global South." In *Fifty Years After Faulkner*, edited by Jay Watson and Ann J. Abadie, 3–19. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2016.
- 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.
- Teodorczuk, Tom. "Why Jeff Bezos Was Ecstatic over the Nobel Prize in Literature Announcement." *MarketWatch*, October 5, 2017. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-jeff-bezos-was-ecstatic-over-todays-nobel-prize-announcement-2017-10-05>.
- Thieme, John. "Naipaul's Nobel." *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 37, no. 1 (March 2002): 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002198940203700101>.
- Walkowitz, Rebecca L. *Born Translated*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2015. <https://login.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e00oxna&AN=1044259&site=ehost-live&ebv=EB>.
- Wall, Joshua Logan. "Sound and Fury: Accent and Identity in Faulkner's Immigration Novel." *MELUS* 42, no. 1 (April 2017): 94–115. <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlw067>.
- Wirsén, Carl David af. "Award Ceremony Speech," December 10, 1907. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1907/ceremony-speech/>.