

English 3322: The Contemporary Novel: Magical Realism

On-line Blackboard course

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.

Required texts:

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)