

ENGLISH 202 DL4 – Information Sheet.
 WORLD LITERATURE SINCE 1950
 Professor John Foster

Book List.

Longman Anthology of World Literature, Volume F: The Twentieth Century, 2nd edition, edited by David Damrosch, et al. (Pearson Longman). ISBN 978-0-205-62594-9

The Bridge of Beyond, by Simone Schwarz-Bart (New York Review Books). ISBN 978-1-59017-680-1
 Selected Stories and Plays on Blackboard (signaled by “Bb”).

Course Description: This online course aims to introduce you to fiction and drama from around the world that was written since 1950. It emphasizes world regions not usually covered in your earlier courses, specifically South Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Drawing on a range of short stories, plays of various lengths, and one novel, I hope to enhance your skills in reading, appreciating, and discussing world literature. I will also address some key issues raised by this topic. ENGH 202 DL4 satisfies both Mason’s general-education requirement in literature and the guidelines for writing-intensive courses.

The week-long modules will include presentations by the instructor on the topics listed on the course schedule and other related issues. I will also be available during online office hours and in an “ask my instructor” forum. Students should expect to be ready to discuss and respond to the readings on discussion boards, by journaling, through interpretation exercises, and/or in other activities as announced. The course will also feature an initial close-reading essay, three “end-of-unit” reflective pieces, and a course paper due at the end of the semester.

Course Schedule (Modules run from Tuesday mornings to Monday evenings;
 some dates may shift if the mid-March break is eliminated as a health precaution.)

MODULES	TOPICS AND READINGS
	WORLD FICTION TURNS A CORNER, 1950-80 UNIT ONE: Modules 1-4.
Module 0 01/19 to 01/20	<i>Course Introduction</i>
Module 1 01/20 to 01/25	<i>The Making of a Modern Short Story</i> Akutagawa, “In a Grove,” Longman 211-16 + a Folk Tale, “How a Man Who Was Accompanying His Wife . . . Got Trussed Up . . .,” Bb.
Module 2 01/26 to 02/01	<i>Modern vs Realist Models for World Fiction</i> Mahfouz, From the <i>Cairo Trilogy</i> , Bb + García Márquez, “Artificial Roses,” Longman 757-61.
Module 3 02/02 to 02/08	<i>Fiction from Two Chinas, with Comments on Censorship</i> Zhang, “Stale Mates,” Longman 693-98 + Mo Yan, From <i>Red Sorghum</i> , Bb.
Module 4 02/09 to 02/15	<i>New Directions after 1960: Magical Realism + Postmodernism</i> García Márquez, “Death Constant Beyond Love,” Bb + Borges, “The Garden of Forking Paths,” Longman, 494-501.

	WOMEN IN WORLD FICTION, 1970-1995 UNIT TWO: Modules 5-7.
Module 5 02/16 to 02/22	<i>Distinctive Gendered Spaces</i> Mernissi, "The Harem Within," Longman, 725-29 + Ambai, "Gifts" and Devi, "The Hunt," both on Bb.
Module 6 02/23 to 03/01	<i>Toussine: The Heritage of Lugandor Women</i> Schwarz-Bart, <i>The Bridge of Beyond</i> , pp. 3-56 (Part I + Part II, chapters 1-2).
Module 7 03/02 to 03/15	<i>Telumee: Facing Life's "Changing Same"</i> <i>The Bridge of Beyond</i> , pp. 57-147 (Part II, chapters 3-8).
	WORLD DRAMA, 1965-95 UNIT THREE: Modules 8-11.
Module 8 03/16 to 03/22	<i>African Drama as Social Protest</i> Fugard, Kani, Ntshona, "Sizwe Bansi is Dead," Bb.
Module 9 03/23 to 03/29	<i>African Drama as Border Writing</i> Ladipo, "Oba Waja" on Bb + Soyinka, <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i> , Longman, 868-90. [Acts I and II, then half of Act III, to the women's dance, p. 890.]
Module 10 03/30 to 04/05	<i>African Drama: Tragedy from the "Abyss of Transition"</i> Finish <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i> , Longman, 891-914. Then start Karnad, <i>The Fire and the Rain</i> , Bb, pp. 25-36.
Module 11 04/06 to 04/12	<i>Indian Drama: A Theatre of Cultural Roots</i> Finish Karnad, <i>The Fire and the Rain</i> , Bb pp. 36-81.
	TOWARD 2001 AND BEYOND, Fiction after 1980 UNIT FOUR: Modules 12-14.
Module 12 04/13 to 04/19	<i>Revisiting/Updating The Thousand and One Nights</i> Mahfouz, From <i>Arabian Nights and Days</i> , Longman 523-37.
Module 13 04/20 to 04/26	<i>Literature Debates the Rise of Visual Media</i> Vargas Llosa, From <i>The Storyteller</i> + Murakami, "TV People," Longman 969-79 + 1008-21.
Module 14 04/27 to 05/03	<i>Reading World Fiction Online: wordswithoutborders.org</i> Trouillot, "Detour" (Haiti) + Khan, "The Man with Three Names" (Pakistan) + Latha, "There Was a Bridge in Tekka" (Singapore).
Final Exam Period 05/04 to 05/12	Course Paper Due.