SYLLABUS - WORLD LITERATURE II:
TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

IDS 102B - Spring 1997 Ursinus College Dr. Marcia Clouser, 320 Olin
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January 22, 1997.....	Class goals and structure Poem: "Memory of Fire," by Eduardo Galeano

MesoAmerican Culture and Literature

January 24.....	Small group reports on the Maya: daykeepers & the Mayan calendar; social hierarchy, religion & blood sacrifice; pharmocopea; the history of the text of Popol Vuh
Week of January 27	Film: Michael Wood's *Legacy: Central America* ; Popol Vuh, ed. Dennis Tedlock; Film: *Popol Vuh*
January 31	First short paper due (1-2 pages)
February 3	Finish Popol Vuh;

Native American Cultures and Literature

February 5	poem: "Money" by Howard Nemerov Small group reports: Louise Erdrich; the Chippewa/ Ojibway nation; Jesuits & the French Catholic Church; shamans & animal totems
February 7, 10 & 12	Louise Erdrich, Tracks
February 12	Second short paper due
February 14	Small group reports: N. Scott Momaday & the Kiowa nation; Pueblo city-states & the Spanish Catholic Church; peyote religion & the Native American Church; the Navajo nation
Week of Feb. 17	N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn
February 21	Outline due for 5-7 page paper on Native American topic
February 24	Small group reports: Sherman Alexie; the Spokane & Coeur d'Alene nations and the culture of potlatch; powwows and dancing; Native American rights groups
Feb. 26 - March 3	Sherman Alexie, The Business of Fancydancing
March 3	Third short paper due
March 5	MIDTERM EXAM
March 7	Return exams; Native American paper due
March 8 - 16	SPRING BREAK

African and African-American Cultures and Literature

March 17	Film: *Interview with Chinua Achebe*; Poem: "The Second Coming," by William Butler Yeats
March 19	Small group reports: Chinua Achebe; Igbo religion and government; British colonization of Nigeria; Achebe's narrative innovations
March 21 & 24	Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart
March 26	Doris Lessing, "A Home for the Highland Cattle"
March 28	Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of F. Douglass;
March 31	Finish Douglass's Narrative; Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"

	Fourth short paper due
April 2	Small group reports: Alice Walker; emancipation and the 13th & 14th amendments; Jim Crow laws and reconstruction; sharecropping and James Agee & Walker Evans' Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
April 4	Outline due for paper on African-African American topic
April 4 - 9	Alice Walker, The Third Life of Grange Copeland
April 11 & 14	Film: August Wilson's The Piano Lesson
April 14	5-7-page paper on African & African American topic due

Latin American Cultures and Literature

April 16	Small group reports: Mario Vargas Llosa; liberation theology; Shining Path & Tupac Amaru; coca, cocaine, & the Peruvian economy
April 18 - 25	Mario Vargas Llosa, The Real Life of Alejandro Mayta
April 28	Small group reports: Gabriel Garcia Marquez; Spanish conquest of Colombia; the effect of the cocaine economy on Colombia; magic realism
April 30	Outline for paper on Latin American topic due
April 30 - May 5	Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Innocent Erendira and Other Stories
May 8	5-7-page paper on Latin American topic due

Determination of Grade:

15 % - outlines & oral presentation of small group reports (each group receives a joint grade)
15 % - 4 short papers (1-2 pages)
20 % - 3 long papers (5-7 pages)
15 % - Class discussion, preparation, and participation
15 % - Midterm Exam
20 % - Final Exam

All papers are due on the day indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be marked down for each day they are late. The midterm and final examinations must be taken on the day they are scheduled. There are no make-up exams.

Texts:

Popol Vuh, ed. Dennis Tedlock
Tracks, by Louise Erdrich
House Made of Dawn, by N. Scott Momaday
The Business of Fancydancing, by Sherman Alexie
Things Fall Apart, by Chinua Achebe
"A Home for the Highland Cattle," by Doris Lessing
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, by Frederick Douglass
"Civil Disobedience," by Henry David Thoreau
The Third Life of Grange Copeland, by Alice Walker
The Real Life of Alejandro Mayta, by Mario Vargas Llosa
Innocent Erendira and Other Stories, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez