SYLLABUS - WORLD LITERATURE II:
TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
IDS 102B - Spring 1997  Ursinus College  Dr. Marcia Clouser, 320 Olin ext. 2443; email: mclouser

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