

International Literature Today [181:191]

Fall 2009

Monday 3:30-5:20pm

106 Gilmore Hall

Instructors:	Office hours:
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SYLLABUS

(check periodically for updates and changes on ICON)

Course format

During its first part the course will draw on the resources of the visiting writers from the International Writing Program. The literature represented includes current writings from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, East and Central Europe, Western Europe, and the Middle East. Text materials (short fiction, poetry, excerpts from drama and non-fiction) will be available on the course's web site, www.uiowa.edu/~iwp. The authors will speak about their own writing and how their work relates to the literary scene in their countries, with particular reference to the posted samples from their writings. Literary issues such as translation, censorship, women's writing, and some background historical, political or cultural information may be discussed in defining the specific literary context of a work, but the course will focus on the writing itself, its artistry and themes.

During the remaining weeks we will read a selection of contemporary fiction, poetry and essays which will frame and complement the course's overall goal.

Course materials

The principal portion of the course materials (including brief biographies of the visiting writers, links to background materials for the countries in which they live, and samples of their writing-- all of which will constitute the **required** reading materials for **each** week) are available on the IWP web site — www.uiowa.edu/~iwp OR, in some cases, on ICON.

In addition, the **required** texts are:

- Charles Simic and Mark Strand, eds. *Another Republic: 17 European and South American Writers* (2009 re-edition)
- Abdourahman Waberi, *In the United States of Africa* (2009)
- G.W. Sebald, *Vertigo* (2001)

The books are available at Prairie Lights Books (15 S. Dubuque).

A CD-Rom containing the definitive edition of the writers' work along with additional materials will be available (at cost, c:a \$10) in week 14.

Additional research venues:

Additionally, we recommend surveying the journal *World Literature Today* (available electronically via the UI library) and other relevant secondary literature, to add depth to your reading of the writers' materials--and to your journal entries. You are also encouraged to browse the www for sites featuring contemporary fiction and poetry outside the US, for instance the electronic journals *Words Without Borders* [<http://www.wordswithoutborders.org>] and *Complete Review* [<http://www.complete-review.com/saloon/index.htm>] as well as the Library of Congress' "Annotated Survey of Noteworthy Books from Around the Globe," at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/int-world.html>. A good starting point for materials on post-colonial literatures in English and French may be found at <http://www.postcolonialweb.org>. Likewise, look at the past issues of www.g1st-meridian.org, the IWP's on-line magazine, and browse the database of past IWP participants you can access under Archives on the IWP web site. Please share other web sites you find particularly interesting, and/or include them in your journals.

Books on reserve:

Simic and Strand, eds. *Another Republic*
 Abdourahman Waberi, *In the United States of Africa*
 G.W. Sebald, *Vertigo*

A reserve list of additional titles by 2009 IWP writers will be posted on ICON

Course requirements

- **Attendance at all class sessions.**

You are strongly encouraged to also attend the IWP panels on Fridays 12 noon to 1:30pm, at the IC Public Library (Meeting Room A). See Calendar on our home page for topics and participants.

Absence from one class meeting may be made up if you a) attend one panel discussion, **OR** b) go to two IWP readings at Prairie Lights Books, held Sundays 4:00-5:00 pm, **OR** c) attend two IWP readings at the Shambaugh House on Fridays 5:00-6:00 pm. Be sure to confirm dates via the IWP home page Calendar. When you attend any of these events, go to one of the instructors and give them your name so we can give you credit for attending. Write a journal entry as you would for the regular class.

- **You will be expected to participate actively in the class in the following two ways:**

(1) In place of a roll call you will be asked to sign in for the weekly class by bringing in a typed sheet of paper with the date, your name, and a question for each of the writers scheduled to present in the class. The question should be based on your reading of their work sample or something else relevant you would like to ask them to address in class. These will eventually be passed on to the individual writers (who are always interested in the US students' reactions to their work).

(2) A journal for the duration of the class. A journal is not to be confused with class notes. We are looking for **your reactions to and comments on** what the writers have said, their writings, and other issues of special interest to you which may have been raised in class. We hope to read engaging discussions of specific works, to find out what new information you learned, to hear about disagreements you may have had with views expressed, or about questions left unanswered-- whether in your own mind or during the exchange in the classroom; and about what or whom you particularly enjoyed.

Those taking the class for 3 s.h.r

- **A journal, to be submitted on October 12 and again on December 11.** This may be hand-written (if legible!) and should include an entry for each class presentation (including substitute events, if any), as well as for the class meetings during which the assigned reading materials are discussed. 2-3 pages per class meeting.
- **A 6-8 page midterm paper, due in class October 12.** The paper should focus on one or a couple of the writers and their work, or any of the literary issues that were discussed in the class. We are interested in your comments on the texts discussed and the issues that have been raised; we'd like to read brief analyses of specific works that appealed to you and to know if there was some new information that you learned. You are encouraged to meet and discuss your paper with the writer you're working on. Secondary sources are a plus but not required.

- **A 10-12 page final paper due no later than Friday December 11, 12 noon.** This paper should be more synthetic in scope, integrating a topic arising from the writers' presentations, at least one of the assigned reading texts, and some secondary materials, properly cited (following either Chicago or MLA rules). For electronic text citation rules, please consult <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>

The final portfolio (both papers, all journals) should be mailed to or dropped off at the IWP, Shambaugh House, 430 N.Clinton (corner of Fairchild) (335-0128).

Those taking the class for 1 s.h.r. need only submit their journal (see above).

Course Grading:

Attendance and questions: 20%

Journal: 30%

First paper: 20%

Second paper: 30%

We need to hear from anyone who has a disability, which may require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact us via email, phone or in conjunction with the class.

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This course is given by the University College. This means that class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by University College. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of Associate Provost of Education Tom Rocklin. Details of this policy of cross enrollments may be found at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc>

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Writer presentations

Draft 10/5/09

Week 1 August 24

Course introduction

Selection from *Another Republic* + handouts

comparative translation

Week 2 August 31

Read:

Damrosch, "What Is World Literature?" and Weinberger, "Anonymous Sources" (ICON), and Drummond de Andrade and Holub in *Another Republic*

Week 3 September 7
Labor Day

Week 4 September 14

The Open World 4: (writing samples at
<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/writers/visitors/2009visitors.html>)

Week 5 September 21

Peeters
 Hijazi
 Dafydd
 Dung
 [Kang]

Week 6 September 28

Graham
 Santaella
 Ivaškevičius
 Conteh
 Zhang

Week 7 October 5

Anker
 Groyon
 Djurdjević
 Pung

Week 8 October 12

Eavan Boland (Ida Beam Visiting Professor)
 Bo Han
 Abdellatif
 Kandasamy
 Rajcic

First installment of journal and short paper due.

Week 9 October 19

Ge Fei [w/Jiang Bin]
 Mishori
 Min
 Case

Week 10 October 26

White
Alabdallah
Ni Shithig
Vafo
Sajjad

Week 11 November 2

Rachedi
Grygorian
Najm
Weber
Nakajima

Week 12 November 9

Wrap-up residency
Waberi (1) and TBA

Week 13 November 16

Waberi (2)
Visitor: Chris Abani
[Thanksgiving Break]

Week 14 November 30

Selections from Another Republic
Sebald (1)

Week 15 December 7

Sebald (2)
Wrap-up course

Final paper and journals due Friday December 11, noon.
(at IWP, Shambaugh House, 430 N. Clinton)