

HR 496, Great books
Fall 2009—Spring 2010
Location: Xavier 174
6:30-9:00 alternate Wednesdays

Julian Long
Phone: 314/977-3951
<http://julianlong.net/wordpress>
longj3@slu.edu

SYLLABUS

Texts

- Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin, 1994 [1963].
- Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*. New York: Seal Press, 2002 [1988].
- Eiseley, Loren. *The Unexpected Universe*. A Harvest Book. New York: Harcourt, 1994 [1964].
- Forster, E. M. *Howard's End*. Bantam Classics. New York: Random House, 2007 [1910].
- Garcia-Marquez, Gabriel. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Trans. Edith Grossman. New York: Penguin Books, 1989 [1988].
- Helprin, Mark. *Winter's Tale*. Reissue Edition. New York: Harvest Books, 2006 [1983].
- Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day*. Vintage International Edition. New York: Random House, 1993 [1988].
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996 [1962].
- Kundera, Milan. *The Unbearable lightness of Being*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1999 [1984].
- MacIntyre, Alasdair. *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*. Second Edition. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1984 [1981].
- Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. Random House Deluxe Trade Paperback Edition. New York: Random House, 2008 [2003].
- Potok, Chaim. *My Name is Asher Lev*. Anchor Books. New York: Random House, 2003 [1972].
- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Revised Edition. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2003 [1971].
- Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader*. Trans. Carol Brown Janeway. New York: Vintage International, 1998.
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Pocket Books. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1985 [1982].

Films: *Howard's End* (1992), *Love in the Time of Cholera* (2007), *The Color Purple* (1985), *The Reader* (2008), *The Remains of the Day* (1993), *The Specialist* (1999), *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1988).

The books are required. I've listed good, cheap editions for most of them. It isn't necessary that you get the listed editions, but it helps discussion if we all have the same page numbers. You don't need to acquire the films. We'll screen them on a series of Saturdays throughout the year, but they'll also be on reserve for you. The films are not required, though I hope you will want to see them.

I maintain a class web page on my blog, which I hope will be useful to you. There will always be a current copy of this syllabus there, if you should ever need to check changes we make in class for any reason. There is a style sheet there, as well, that tabulates the reader's marks I tend to use. You can download these texts and print them with Adobe Reader. If you don't have Adobe Reader, there's a link at the class web site to the Adobe Reader download page. Adobe Reader is a free program. The blog address is: <http://julianlong.net/wordpress/>.

Schedule

August 24: Fall classes begin.
August 26: Organizational meeting.
September 7: Labor Day holiday.
September 9: Nafisi, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.
September 23: Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*.
October 7: Walker, *The Color Purple*.
October 10: Saturday film, 2:00, *The Color Purple*.
October 19–20: Fall break.
October 21: Forster, *Howard's End*.
October 24: Saturday film, 2:00, *Howard's End*.
November 4: Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*.
November 7: Saturday film, 2:00, *The Remains of the Day*.
November 18: Eiseley, *The Unexpected Universe*.
November 25–27: Thanksgiving holiday.
December 2: Helprin, *Winter's Tale*.
December 9–15: Final exams.
December 15: 5:00 p.m. Fall semester paper due.
December 18–January 10: Semester break.
January 11: Spring classes begin.
January 13: Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.
January 16: Saturday film, 2:00, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.
January 18: Martin Luther King holiday.
January 27: Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.
February 10: Schlink, *The Reader*.
February 13: Saturday film, 2:00, *The Reader*.
February 24: Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*.
February 27: Saturday film, 2:00, *The Specialist*.
March 8–13: Spring break.
March 17: Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*.
March 31: MacIntyre, *After Virtue*.
April 14: Garcia-Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*.
April 17: Saturday film, 2:00, *Love in the Time of Cholera*.
April 28: Potok, *My Name is Asher Lev*.
April 22: May 5–11: Final exams.
May 11: 5:00 p.m. Spring semester paper due.

Overview

The course is primarily reading and discussion. I will invite a few colleagues to help us discuss readings each term, and I'll announce these as we go along. Reading assignments include modern and postmodern classics in a variety of genres.

Grades, writing, attendance:

I'd like you to write a one-page paragraph essay detailing your reaction to each reading assignment and hand it in at the beginning of class before the discussion. I want these to be honest, unprejudiced reactions, so generally I'll not accept them after class discussion. You may write about the films, however, and I'll accept as many as two paragraph essays on films each semester in lieu of essays on books. And since you'll need to have seen the films in order to write about them, I'll accept those essays after the Saturday screenings. I'll plan to count ten paragraph essays for each of you over the year—that will give you a little flexibility about what to write.

In addition to the paragraph essays, I'd like you to write a more substantial semester essay each term in which you explore some theme that appears in more than one text. These should be original essays and not research papers. You may use films as well as books. We'll talk about these essays at some length in class, and I'd like to have a conference with each of you each term about your particular paper. At present, I'm thinking that I'll base your final grade on class participation (25%), your paragraph essay average (25%), and the two longer essays (25% each).

I expect you to attend class and to be on time. If you need be absent, please let me know in advance and hand your paragraph essay in early unless you want to skip it. We meet mostly every two weeks. A hint to the wise: I'll not give quizzes as long as people come to class and/or unless I discover that people aren't reading. The Saturday movie screenings are, as I say, not required; though I hope some of you will come each time because it's fun to talk about the movies after we watch them.

The university uses the following grading scale:

3.9 – 4.0	A	2.2 – 2.5	C+
3.6 – 3.8	A –	1.9 – 2.1	C
3.2 – 3.5	B+	1.6 – 1.8	C –
2.9 – 3.1	B	0.9 – 1.5	D
2.6 – 2.8	B –	0.0 – 0.8	F

About form:

Double space your essays, including any notes and references you may include. I have given you a simple style sheet at the class web site as well as links there to other sources of information about style. For questions you can't answer by going to these sources, check the *MLA Handbook*.

Academic Honesty:

I expect you to conduct your work for this class in a manner consistent with university standards of academic honesty. The university *Policy on Academic Honesty* is available in the library.

Disability Accommodation

If you need disability accommodation, you should contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 314/977-2930 in addition to speaking to me, since some accommodations may require college-wide resources. The College of Arts and Sciences asks that you contact Disabilities Services “as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.”

Office hours

I'll schedule regular office hours each semester and make appointments for other times within reason. If you really need me you can call me at my wireless number or at home; leave a message if I don't answer. Generally the best way to communicate with me is to write me email.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Academic Resources Center, 3840 Lindell	
Academic Services	977-2370
Writing Center	977-2930
Student Educational Services (Disability Accommodation)	977-8885
Campus Ministry	
Loyola Campus Ministry Center	977-2425
Julian Long	
Home	773-2876
Wireless	302-3267
Honors Program	977-3951
Student Health and Counseling	
Marchetti Tower East	977-2323
Student Housing and Residence Life	
Village Building B	977-2811
Public Safety Department	
DuBourg 9	977-3000

Please report any errors you find in this syllabus.