

20McGill University

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Hispanic Culture and Literature in English 1

HISP301 001

Fall 2021

Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:05 to 11:25

Instructor: Timothy Ostrom

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:30 or by appointment

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I. Course Overview

This course is designed to serve as an overview to the narrative of Gabriel García Márquez in all its diverse stages and throughout a range of discursive genres that span from journalism to realism, magical realism and the historical novel. The principal objective of the course is to foster an appreciation of the richness and diversity of the literature of García Márquez, as well as an awareness of his significance within both Latin American and World literature. In addition to a close reading of literary works, the course also explores the relationship between the literary texts and the history and culture of Latin America.

II. Learning Outcomes

This course aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of the versatility of the production of García Márquez across a broad range of discursive genres. Throughout the course, we will analyze the principal narrative strategies, literary techniques and themes in both the fiction and nonfiction of the author. In addition, we will establish relationships between the narrative of García Márquez and the history and culture of Latin America. By the end of the course, students should have an awareness of the significance of the narrative of García Márquez within both Latin American and World literature, as well the resources necessary to engage in close textual analysis and interpretation of the literary works studied in class.

III. Evaluation

The course has four graded components, whose values are distributed as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Response Papers: 15%

Quiz 1: 17.5%

Quiz 2: 17.5%

Final Paper: 40%

A. Attendance and Participation

Class discussions based on the analysis and interpretation of literary texts are an integral part of this course. You are expected to come to class prepared to participate actively and constructively in class discussions. This implies reading the required materials, taking notes on them and preparing any points or questions to address in class. Taking notes will not only deepen your analysis of literary texts but also help you to feel more comfortable participating in discussions. Participation will be evaluated in terms of your regular engagement with reading materials and active contribution to class discussion. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in class for whatever reason, please come see me in my office hours.

B. Response Papers

There are two response papers throughout the semester. For the first response paper, you will have the option of writing about either *No One Writes to the Coronel* or *One Hundred Years of Solitude*; for the second, you may choose between *The General and his Labyrinth* and *Clandestine in Chile*. The response papers are intended to be short reflections (from 250 to 400 words) upon an aspect of the corresponding literary work. The idea is to express an intuition or critical insight that arises from your engagement with the text. As such, it is not necessary to consult or cite critical sources but rather explore your own personal response to the text. Please avoid summarizing the plot, as this is not a descriptive text. Although they have a due date, you can turn them in at any point beforehand.

C. Quizzes

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester, on the 20th of October and the 22nd of November, respectively. The content will be based on the required readings and the information presented in class. Together with the response papers, the quizzes are designed to be a low-stakes format of evaluation that ensure that students are actively engaging with required readings.

D. Final Paper

You will have the opportunity to choose from a list of themes provided by me or to propose your own theme. Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced, 12pt. font Times New Roman. You are required to cite the literary work and secondary sources, such as articles and books on your topic. Please cite all sources in a bibliography and be consistent in your citation format (preferably MLA). You are strongly encouraged to meet with me by the beginning of November to discuss your paper topic and outline.

Grading Scheme

A	85-100%
A-	80-84%
B+	75-79%
B	70-74%
B-	65-69%
C+	60-64%
C	55-59%
D	50-54%

IV. Course Materials

All the literary texts are available for purchase at the Le James – McGill Bookstore, as well as most other bookstores and online vendors that sell literature in English.

- García Márquez, Gabriel. *The Scandal of the Century and Other Writings*. Vintage / Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-525-56680-9
- García Márquez, Gabriel. *No One Writes to the Colonel*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-06-075157-9
- García Márquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Harper Perennial Publishers, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-06-088328-7
- García Márquez, Gabriel. *Clandestine in Chile*. New York Review of Books, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-59017-340-4
- García Márquez, Gabriel. *The General in His Labyrinth*, Vintage / Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2003. ISBN: 978-1-4000-3470-3

V. Policy Statements

Policy on Student Inclusion: As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Policy on Course Materials: *I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that associated materials of this course are not reproduced or placed in the public domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it, by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Please refer to McGill's [Guidelines for Instructors and Students on Remote Teaching and Learning](#) for further information. Thank you very much for your help with this.*

Policy On Video/Audio Recordings: No audio or video recording of Zoom Meetings or interactions with the instructor and/or other students is allowed without the explicit permission of the instructor and/or the students involved in the interaction.

Language Policy: “In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and Evaluation.)

Policy On Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Policy On “End-Of-Course Evaluations: “[End-of-course evaluations](#) are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.”

Policy On Course Changes: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Policy On The Use Of MC2 (Mobile Computing and Communications): *The use of MC2 (mobile computing and communications) devices must, in all cases, respect policies and regulations of the University, including in particular the following:*

1. *The Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures;*
2. *The Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities;*
3. *The Policy on the Responsible Use of McGill IT Resources.*

Copyright Of Lectures Statement: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor’s intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor’s intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Netiquette Statement: The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:

1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
2. Visual backgrounds
3. "Chat" boxes

To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted throughout your class, unless invited by the instructor to speak.

You should follow instructors’ directions about the use of the “chat” function on remote learning platforms.

Sensitive Content Statement: Content warning: Please be aware that some of the course content may be disturbing for some students. It has been included in the course because it directly relates to the learning outcomes. Please contact the instructor if you have specific concerns about this.

Text-Matching Software: Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to text-matching or other appropriate software (e.g., formula-, equation-, and graph-matching).”

VI. General Course Outline

Date	Class topic	Before class	Assignment Due Dates
Week 1			
Wednesday, September 1 st	Course presentation	Required reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • “Poetry, in Children’s Reach,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> 	
Week 2			
Monday, September 6 th	No class due to Labor Day holiday		
Wednesday, September 8 th	Literature in Translation / Literary Canon	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor Good Translator,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “The Specter of the Nobel Prize,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “Conclusion: Political Criticism,” in <i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i>, by Terry Eagleton. The chapter can be downloaded as a PDF from the McGill library website https://mcgill.on.worldcat.org/v2/search?datasource=library_web_fields&search=true&scope=wz%3A12129&clusterResults=on&func=find-b&topLod=0&queryString=Terry+Eagleton+Literary+Theory%3A+An+Introduction&find=Go 	
Week 3			
Monday, September 13 th	<i>No Ones Writes to the Colonel</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No Ones Writes to the Colonel</i> (pp. 3-34) 	
Wednesday, September 15 th	<i>No Ones Writes to the Colonel</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No Ones Writes to the Colonel</i> (pp. 34-62) 	
Week 4			

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Monday, September 20 th	Literature and Reality	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Literaturism,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “Something Else on Literature and Reality,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “The Solitude of Latin America” https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1982/marquez/lecture/	
Wednesday, September 22 nd	Introduction to Magical Realism	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” 	
Week 5			
Monday, September 27 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 1-36) 	
Wednesday, September 29 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 37-78) 	
Week 6			
Monday, October 4 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 79-120)	
Wednesday, October 6 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 121-59) 	
Week 7			
Monday, October 11 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 161-201) 	
Wednesday, October 13 th	No Classes Due to the Fall Break		
Week 8			
Monday, October 18 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 203-43) 	

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Wednesday, October 20 th	Quiz 1	No Required Reading	Quiz 1 (in class)
Week 9			
Monday, October 25 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 245-91) 	
Wednesday, October 27 th	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 293-354) 	
Friday, October 29 th	No class	No required reading	Response Paper 1 (MyCourses: Assignments folder)
Week 10			
Monday, November 1 st	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (pp. 355-417) 	
Wednesday, November 3 rd	Figure of the Writer / Public Intellectual	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Topic for a Topical Piece,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “Misadventures of a Writer of Books,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> • “Writer Wanted,” in <i>Scandal of the Century</i> 	
Week 11			
Monday, November 8 th	<i>Clandestine in Chile</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clandestine in Chile</i>, chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-56) 	
Wednesday, November 10 th	<i>Clandestine in Chile</i>	Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clandestine in Chile</i>, chapters 6-10 (pp. 57-114) 	
Week 12			
Monday, November 15 th	<i>The General in his Labyrinth</i>	Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The General in his Labyrinth</i> (pp. 3-68) 	

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Wednesday, November 17 th	<i>The General in his Labyrinth</i>	Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The General in his Labyrinth</i> (pp. 69- 100) 	
Week 13			
Monday, November 22 nd	Quiz 2	No Required Reading	Quiz 2 (in class)
Wednesday, November 24 th	<i>The General in his Labyrinth</i>	Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The General in his Labyrinth</i> (pp. 101- 67) 	
Week 14			
Monday, November 29 th	<i>The General in his Labyrinth</i>	Required Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The General in his Labyrinth</i> (pp. 167- 197) 	
Wednesday, December 1 st	<i>The General in his Labyrinth</i>	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The General in his Labyrinth</i> (pp. 199- 231) 	
Friday, December 3 rd	No class	No Required Reading	Response Paper 2 (MyCourses: Assignments folder)
Week 15			
Monday, December 6 th	Course Wrap-Up	No Required Reading	Final Essay due

The information in the course outline is subject to adjustments, according to any needs that may arise throughout the semester.