

## **Fall 2019 Course Descriptions**

**Instructor:** Emily Johansen

**Course:** ENGL 352

**Title:** Literature WWII to Present

**Description:** To live now is to live in the shadow of, what some critics refer to as, the long 1990s. If the immediate postwar decades were marked by massive social movements and a subsequent backlash, the 1990s might be understood as the decade in which those earlier social movements were more fully appropriated and commodified. Bracketed by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and 9/11 in 2001, the 1990s were a moment when capitalism seemed to have most firmly taken its place as the only viable global ideological formation. How, then, did the 1990s represent itself? How did the cultural production of that decade imagine its relation to both the past and the future? And how do we represent our current indebtedness to the 1990s? What does looking at the 1990s tell us about how we understand the post-WWII period? These questions are at the core of this section of ENGL 352. Potential texts include: novels such as *Parable of the Sowers* (Butler), *Never Let Me Go* (Ishiguro), *Beloved* (Morrison), *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* (Moshfegh), *My Year of Meats* (Ozeki), *The God of Small Things* (Roy), *Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist* (Yapa), episodes of *Derry Girls*, films such as *Children of Men* and *RoboCop*, and articles by Arjun Appadurai, Claire Bishop, Mark Fisher, Richard Florida, Jeremy Gilbert, and Jeffrey Nealon. Students should anticipate reading/ viewing material that they may find difficult for a variety of reasons; they are encouraged to look into these texts in advance.

**Proposed Readings:**