

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Marian Eide

Course: ENGL 481

Title: Senior Seminar: Literature and Violence

Description: If literature is our bid to make sense of complex and extreme experiences, there is hardly more fertile creative ground than the writings of the twentieth century. This period of global trauma produced writing at once saturated in political violence and complicated by the ethics of innovative aesthetic productions. Stretching across genres and around the globe, the course charts a course of aesthetic reconciliation between empathy and evil in the literatures of the twentieth century.

Proposed Readings: J. M. Coetzee: Disgrace

978-0140296402

Junot Diaz: The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao

978-1594483295

Bubacar Boris Diop: Murambi, The Book of Bones

978-0253218520

Don DeLillo: Point Omega

978-1439169964

Colson Whitehead: The Underground Railroad

978-0345804327

Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things

978-0812979657

Teju Cole: Open City

978-0812980097

Film Online:

Alain Renais: "Night & Fog"

Essays on eCampus:

Sontag, Susan, Regarding the Pain of Others, 3-17.

Žižek, Slavoj, Violence: Six Sideways Reflections, 1-8.

Caruth, Cathy and Dori Laub, "A Record That Has Yet to Be Made," 46-78.