HU 3253 Topics in World Literatures and Cultures
Summer 2007
Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval-B.
M/T/W/Th 11:05-12:25
Off. Walker 322; Off. Hours: M/Tu/W 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Notes:
1. MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If anyone in this class has a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call Associate Dean of Students Gloria Melton at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head/chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.
2. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus for this class, for pedagogical reasons and if need arises.

General Course Objectives

Literature as a social manifestation cannot be understood as art for art’s sake, hence, it cannot be understood outside a social context either. Bearing this postulate in mind, HU 3253, Topics in World Literatures and Culture will undertake Comparative views of non-industrially developed world Literatures, i.e., Literatures from the so called "third World Countries" and their Cultures. We will consider different stages of economic and political and social development as viewed and presented by acknowledged writers and intellectuals from some areas of Latin America and Africa, in their essays, novels and stories assigned for this course.

We will reflect on concepts such as the so called "Gradient of Modification" [of the natural and social landscape] as more faithful depictions of natural worlds drawn into more urbanized and industrialized ones. Thus, we will read essays, novels and stories which present visions of what we might still call "primitive," such as indigenous societies, and other societies or cultures seen as being at different stages of development and as they face modernizing trends since colonization by European powers. We will read specific literary genres, mainly novels, essays, and stories which focus on fictional and autobiographical, political cultural and economic representation such as José María Arguedas’s famous novel *Deep Riven* and Ngugi Wathiong’o’s *The Devil on the Cross*, as well as on the short novel and stories which represent different facets of local cultures and history such as those written by the Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez. We will consider the drama of those people who are torn between natural, developing and developed societies, in light of processes such as those of blood and culture, "meztizaje," colonization and acculturation.
TEXTS
1- Arguedas, José María. Deep Rivers Trans. Transl. Francis Horning Barraclough
2- Wa Thiong’o, Ngugi. The Devil on the Cross
3- Gracia Marquez, Gabriel. No one Writes to the Colonel and other stories

Student Responsibilities
♦ Complete the assigned readings and be prepared to actively participate in class discussions.
♦ More than three unexcused absences will jeopardize your achieving the highest grade you expect from this class.
♦ Write a final paper (6 to 8 pages, font 12, 1” on all margins, no big blank spaces anywhere in your paper) on a theme or topic which has elicited your interest or provoked reactions to any of the readings and discussion done during this class.
You can comment on your reaction to each of the works read. How do you relate them to other readings you have done before or to other courses you have taken up to now, and finally, how have these works changed (or not) your vision of the world as you have lived/experienced it, as well as the vision you have of the world outside your own.
This final paper is due on the last day of class.

EVALUATION
Class attendance and active participation 50%
Final paper 50%

GENERAL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Two weeks for each listed work, following the listed order given above (Total six weeks)
The remaining week of scheduled class time will be divided up for slide presentation, focused discussion or background for each one of the authors and the chosen works.