HU 3253 Topics in World Literatures and Cultures
Summer 2008
Dr. Ciro A. Sandoval-B.
M/T/W/Th 11:05-12:25
Off. Walker 322; Off. Hours: /Tu/W/Th 10:00-10:55 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 special circumstances call for a syllabus change.

3- Academic Integrity. Students who cheat, plagiarize or fabricate information, as well as students who help others cheat, plagiarize or fabricate information, can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/prospect/02/18-02.htm

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 industrially developed and non-industrially developed world Nations and Literatures, i.e., Literatures from the so called "first and 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 selected Latin American, African, and Middle Eastern areas in their essays, novels and short 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. We will read novels and short stories which present visions of what some ethnocentric critics call fourth world or indigenous nations and other societies or cultures seen as being at different stages of development and as they face modernizing changing trends in every
aspect of their existence since colonization by European powers. We will read specific literary genres, mainly novels, essays, and short stories which focus on fictional and autobiographical, political, cultural and economic representations, such as José María Argüeda's famous novel *Deep Rivers* and Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *The Devil on the Cross*, as well as shorter novels and stories which represent different facets of local cultures and history such as those written by the Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez and Chassan Kanafani. We will consider the drama of those people who are torn between natural, developing and developed societies in light of processes such as those "meztizaje," colonization, displacement and acculturation.

**TEXTS**
1- Arguedas, José María. *Deep Rivers Trans. Transl. Francis Homing Barraclough*
2- Wa Thiong'o, Ngugi. *The Devil on the Cross*
3- García Márquez, Gabriel. *No one Writes to the Colonel and other stories*
4- Kanafani, Chassan. *Men in the Sun and other Palestinian 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 completed 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 of the first listed novels
One and a half week for each of the last two listed books of short stories