This course examines contemporary world literature from the second half of the twentieth century to the present. Texts will range across literary genres (including novels, poetry, and short stories) and mediums (films) to include writers from multiple geographies—in addition to America and Britain, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. We will attempt to define the category "world literature," as we explore innovations in aesthetics and historical developments that have influenced contemporary world literature. We will look closely at how race, politics, ethnicity, nationalism, religion and gender have impacted the formation of world literature and its bearings on social justice. Authors may include: J. M. Coetzee, Zadie Smith, Orhan Pamuk, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Tayeb Salih, Octavia E. Butler, S. Mootoo and S. Rushdie. Theoretical selections could be from the Routledge *World Literature: A Reader*.

This proseminar, required for all first-year Master's students, is aimed as an introduction to the discipline, the profession, and to scholarly research. It will:

1. Address the history and current debates in the field of English Studies, with a focus on guiding students to refine their scholarly position and to think about their role in the humanities as well as about the different ways in which they can participate as scholars in their academic and social communities
2. Introduce and practice the main components of professional and scholarly life (formulating research questions, doing research, conducting literature reviews, writing and presenting scholarship, writing proposals, communicating with faculty members and other scholars, etc.)
3. Encourage discussion on the main pragmatic issues facing student scholars during their studies (balancing work/study/life in order to stay on track with their degree, understanding employment and other opportunities available, funding their research etc.)

These aims will be achieved through careful reading of assigned materials, active discussion, and a variety of formal and informal writing assignments.
This course aims to give students the opportunity to study several great novels in detail. These novels will illustrate the diverse experiences and narrative techniques representative of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Discussion of each novel will entail cultural and critical contexts. The class will examine the emergence of the modern American novel, beginning with a study of fictional renditions of the Civil War experience and its aftermath, followed by testimonies from the Harlem Renaissance, Dust Bowl, civil rights issues, urban decay, and much more. Tentative reading list includes *Awakening and Selected Stories* (Chopin), *Absalom, Absalom!* (Faulkner), *The Bluest Eye* (Morrison), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Steinbeck), *The Red Badge of Courage and Other Stories* (Crane), *Invisible Man* (Ellison), *The Ambassadors* (James), *Ceremony* (Silko).