

## **Umbrella Syllabus**

### **ENG 384 – World Literature**

#### **Course Description:**

World Literature examines works from non-Western cultures and contrasts them with familiar or new works from Western culture.

The approach of the course will vary from instructor to instructor. The course may treat a common theme across various cultures, focus on a particular time period or genre (such as the epic), or contrast contemporary novels from two countries (such as the United States and Mexico).

#### **Course Objectives:**

- (1) To gain an insight into other world views by examining works from non-Western cultures.
- (2) To gain a better understanding of one's own culture by studying works from Western and non-Western cultures.
- (3) To study principles of artistic structure and convention, which vary in different cultures.
- (4) To increase one's appreciation of literature in general and in particular to increase one's appreciation and understanding of literature from another culture.
- (5) To develop further one's ability to analyze and appreciate literature.

#### **Course Requirements:**

- (1) Readings of works of literature will be drawn from one or more non-Western countries.
- (2) Evaluation may be based on the following: reading quizzes, in-class essays, outside papers, and a minimum of one analytical paper.
- (3) Relevant out-of-class activities—speakers, films, performances—may be required.

#### **Recent Topics**

- The literature of China, Russia, and the United States
- Gender and Culture
- The literature of the former Yugoslavia
- The literature of Japan
- The literature of India and the United States

**Note:** By “non-Western” literature, we mean literature outside of the traditional Western canon of works.