Philosophical ideas expressed in significant literary works from world cultures. This is a general education Humanities course and part of the International Studies Pathway minor. The course is offered as writing intensive and satisfies the global cultures requirement.

Critical reading and discussion of selected literary works, with special emphasis on the clarification and analysis of the philosophical ideas they entail. Readings selected are representative and inclusive of major philosophical views influential in 21st century life with special attention paid to perennial problems for all cultures including love, immigration, aging, family, poverty, and identity. This course blends philosophical works with illustrative and contrasting literary selections. For instance, students will read a major philosophical work on socialism such as Lenin, *The State and Revolution* along with Zamyatin’s dystopian critique *We*.

The works of literature selected generally enjoy international recognition as well as significant influence in their countries of origin. Many of the authors are Nobel Prize recipients. More importantly, several have been suppressed and so illustrate the critical perspective the writer offers of national and international institutions and the art of writing as an act for social change. Literature is supplemented with short philosophical selections to help tease out the philosophical content.

In Fall 2012 two sections of HUM 288 are offered – one in the real world and one online only.

Readings:

Literature:
A: Novels and Short Story Collections
These are all relatively short. I have ordered them at the AS Wildcat bookstore. But many of you will want to get used copies on the internet. When you see the word selections I am letting you know we will not be reading the entire work. The details of just what is selected will be inside bblearn.

Etger Keret, *The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories*
J. M Coetzee, *Disgrace.*
Eugene Zamiatyin, *We.*
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Memories of My Melancholy Whores.*

B: Other Short Stories:
These will also be available as etexts via bblearn.

Yukio Mishima, “Patriotism.”
Knut Hamsun, “On the Prairie” and “Zacheus.”
Yiyun Li, “Prison”

C: Philosophy:
These are all relatively short and will be available as etexts via bblearn. But do try to find yourself a used copy of Chang Tzu (Thomas Merton translation.)

Vladimir Lenin, *The State and Revolution.*
Confucius, *Analects.* Selections
The Buddha, *The Four Noble Truths.*
Arthur Danto, “The Philosopher as Andy Warhol.”
W E B Dubois, *The Souls of Black Folk,* chapter one.
Plato, “Symposium” AND “Crito.”
Thoreau, *Walden* “Economy,” just this chapter.
Fan Ruiping, “Priority of Family.”

Writing Assignments
This is a writing intensive course. You will receive prompt feedback on your efforts. In order for me to do my job you will turn in assignments on time. I like Tim Tebow. But there can be no Tim Tebows in this class. We work moderately all semester. We do not try to come from behind in the fourth quarter and win in overtime.
TOPICAL OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

MEANING OF LIFE
Merton’s translation
Etger Keret, The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories

AUTHORITARIANISM
Week 3-4 Vladimir Lenin, The State and Revolution.[http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/]
Eugene Zamiatyin, We.

RACISM
Week 5-6 W E B Dubois, The Souls of Black Folk, chapter one.
http://www.bartleby.com/114/1.html
J. M Coetzee, Disgrace.

SUFFERING AND SUICIDE
Week 7-9 Confucius, Analects. Selected.
The Buddha, The Four Noble Truths
Kawabata, Palm of the Hand Stories. Selected
"A Sunny Place"
"The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket"
"Canaries"
"Glass"
"Thank You"
"The Silverberry Thief"
"Love Suicides"
"There is a God"
"Goldfish on the Roof"
"Yuriko"
"God's Bones"
"Lavatory Buddahood"
"The Man Who Did not Smile"
"The Younger Sister's Clothes"
"The Wife of the Autumn Wind"
"Tabi"
"The Jay"
"Bamboo Leaf Boats"
"Immortality"
"Earth"
This looks like a lot of reading. But most of the stories are 2-3 pages long.

ORDINARY LIVES AND LOVES
Week 10-12 Arthur Danto, “The Philosopher as Andy Warhol.” etext
Plato, “Symposium.” etext
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Memories of My Melancholy Whores.

LOYALTY
Plato, “Crito” etext
Yukio Mishima, “Patriotism.” (etext)

WORK and FAMILY
Week 14
Thoreau, Walden “Economy.” etext
Fan Ruiping, “Priority of Family.” etext

IMMIGRATION
WEEK 15
Knut Hamsun, “On the Prairie” and “Zachaeus.” etext
Yiyun Li, “Prison” etext,

YOUR GRADE

Please keep the following in mind:

Points, not percents.
Nothing late counts.
No makeups.

Your grade is based on the standard 100 point scale. For now think 90 points is an A. You have 120 points available to you. Let us say you attempt 115 of those points and get 90. Your grade is not 90/115. No need to reach for your calculator. Your grade is A based on the 90 regardless of whether you attempt 90, or 110, or 120 or whatever. Points, not percents.
Why do things this way? Not every student excels at the same type of task. You may concentrate on what you do well. This point system also allows me to dispense with makeup and require work on time. In a sense, by having extra points for everybody I have built makeup into the fabric of the course.

For the following tasks you will find due dates inside bblearn.

Tests
Three ten point objective tests based on our readings spread evenly throughout the course. These will be delivered online. 30 points.

Essays
Eight guided writing assignments that will begin as expository and gradually evolve into compare and contrast essays. I count the best six. By guided writing assignments I mean that I provided questions with substructures 60 points.

Blog
Up to ten points for blog participation. See bblearn for details. 10 points.

Creative work
Short stories, poetry, essays, art, and ? inspired by readings and topics. 10 points.

Civic engagement project
See bblearn for details. 10 points.