This course will examine three “encyclopedic” texts (*War and Peace*, *Ulysses*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*) that rehearse and interrogate inherited paradigms of cultural identity, purpose, and destiny. Through sustained attention to formal and ideological tenets of these specific texts, we will also seek to interrogate some of the salient procedures of realism, modernism, and postcolonialism.

**Intended Learning Outcomes of the course:**

Learning Outcomes Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

. a) Develop a larger understanding of Western fiction’s realistic practices (*War and Peace*), of modernist challenge to those practices (*Ulysses*), and of nonwestern reconfiguring of fiction’s procedures and purposes (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*).

. b) Analyze how imaginative fiction works to secure its effects (how fictional logics differ from conventional argumentative logics).

. c) Reflect comparatively on the techniques available to novelists, understand better the consequences of a writer’s specific technical choices.

. d) Decode a wide array of rhetorical usages, see what is at stake in their deployment.

. e) Write imaginatively about how novels achieve their meanings, and about how different novelistic practices are shaped to pursue different meanings.

. f) Grasp the changing meanings of these three canonical texts—over time and place—by sampling a range of the best critical commentary on them.

**Determination of Grade**

Tolstoy essay: 35%

Joyce essay: 35%
Student Workshops: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Teaching and Learning Methodologies

This course will proceed by way of four interrelated methodologies:

a) informal lectures on each of the texts
b) interactive discussion in the classroom: each student will contribute
c) small student-led workshops: each student will lead one of these
d) sampling of secondary critical materials: the aim is to introduce students to some of the best commentary available on all three huge texts, as well as on realism, modernism, and postcolonialism

Syllabus

1/27 – Introductory

2/5 – *War and Peace*, Vol 2, Part 2 (70pp)

2/10 – *War and Peace*, Vol 2, Parts 3-5 (180pp)
2/12 – *War and Peace*, Vol 3, Part 1 (80pp); Workshop 1

2/19 – *War and Peace*, Vol 3, Pt 3 (110 pp)

2/24 – *War and Peace*, Vol 4, Parts 1-3 (140pp)
2/26 – *War and Peace*, Vol 4, Part 4, Epilogue, Parts 1-2 (140 pp); Workshop 2

3/3 –Tolstoy and Realism; critical readings (80 pp); Workshop 3
3/5 – Joyce, *Ulysses* (Gabler edition), chapters 1-3, twice (45 pp)

3/9 – 1st paper due, 9am: 8-9 pp on *War and Peace*
3/10 – *Ulysses*, chapters 4-6, twice, 7 (80 pp)
3/12 – *Ulysses*, chapters 8-9, twice (55 pp)

Spring Break

3/31 – *Ulysses*, chapters 10-11 (60 pp);
4/2 – *Ulysses*, chapters 12 (40 pp); Workshop 4
4/7 – *Ulysses*, chapters 12, 13, twice (30 pp)
4/9 – *Ulysses*, chapter 15 (1st half: 75 pp)

4/14 – *Ulysses*, chapter 15 (2nd half: 75pp)
4/16 – *Ulysses*, chapter 17, twice (60 pp)

4/21 – *Ulysses*, chapter 18, twice (40 pp); critical readings: 50pp); Workshop 5
4/23 – Joyce and Modernism; critical readings (50pp); Workshop 6

4/27 – 2nd paper due, 9am, 8-9 pp on *Ulysses*
4/28 – García-Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Rabassa trans), 1 (100pp)
4/30 – *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 2 (80pp)

5/5 – *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 3 (110pp)
5/7 – *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 4 (80pp)

5/12 – *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, complete (40pp); critical readings (40pp); Workshop 7
5/14 – Tolstoy, Joyce, García-Márquez, retrospective; Workshop 8

There will be a final exam, composed of two essays (both with choice). The 1st essay (one hour) will focus on García-Márquez, the 2nd essay (two hours) will be comparative.