Read the World
COLT 001 Prof. Michell Warren @ 2 hour
“Can you read that?”

If you’re reading this, you already know how to read. Or do you? In this course, you’ll learn how complicated the answer to that question can be. As you go about your day, you’re actually reading all the time—faces, pictures, buildings, people, and much more. When you “read the world,” how do you make and share meanings with other readers? These questions are fundamental to human existence—and also lots of fun to think about!

By the end of this course, you’ll have sampled a wide range of theories that explain reading, interpretation, and communication. You’ll have sampled literature and art from around the world, exploring the powers and limits of comparison. By reading across objects, languages, cultures, people, places, histories, and creative forms (from poetry to film), you’ll gain new insights into how the world really works. Yes, reading literature can really teach you that.

Key Facts
- This course is designed for first-year students
- Enrollment is capped at 50 students
- Class meets MWF at 2-hour, with regular use of x-hour on Thursdays
- Distributive: LIT or INT (you choose depending on your other enrollments)
- World Culture: CI
- All materials will be posted on Canvas. You won’t have any expenses for books or other materials, although you might need to budget for extra printing costs if you print a lot.
- This course is supported by undergraduate Learning Fellows and graduate Teaching Assistants. It’s a “large class with a small class feel.” You won’t get lost in the crowd!
- This course involves lots of collaborative work in pairs, trios, and larger teams because reading is a social activity, even when you’re reading silently by yourself.
- The rhythm of this course is demanding, but the assignments are short and 40% of them are credit/no credit. You will succeed if you pay attention!

Assignment Summary
- 8 Journals, credit/no credit—20%
- 6 Projects, credit/no credit—20%
- 4 Papers (2pages) — 35%
- 1 Team Reading — 10%
- 1 Final Exam — 15%