

COLT 1: Read the World

Key Facts

- This course is designed for first-year students, but all are welcome and will find the course challenging
- Enrollment is capped at 50 students
- Class meets MWF in the 12-hour (12:50-1:55, with some use of our designated x-hour on Tuesdays from 1:20 to 2:10)
- Distributive: LIT or INT (= “Literature” or “International or Comparative Study” – you choose which of these two distributives you want)
- World Culture: CI (Culture and Identity)
- Eligible for NRO (non-recording option): but you do need a recorded grade if you want to get distributive credit
- The course is supported by five graduate Teaching Assistants. It’s a “large class with a small class feel.”
- The course involves collaborative work in pairs, trios, and teams because reading is a social activity (even when you’re reading silently by yourself).
- If the pace of this course ever feels demanding, remember that the individual assignments are short, and are often credit/no credit. The most important skill to cultivate is paying attention—to what you hear, see, read and write.

Assignment Summary and Grade Distribution

- Consistently bring all reading materials to class on paper; annotate reading; take notes in class—5%
- 8 Journal Responses, 8 Quote & Questions responses, credit/no credit—25%.
- 5 Projects, credit/no credit—25%
- 2 Papers (2-3 pages) — 30%
- 1 Final Exam — 15%

Assignment Schedule

- Sundays by 10 pm: post Journal entries concerning Monday’s readings; Sundays are also the due dates for Projects in Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7
- Tuesdays by 10 pm: post your Quote & Questions on Wednesday’s readings
- When we have x-hour meetings, they will be team/project meetings on Tuesdays from 1:20 2:10 pm: Week 3, Week 5, Week 9

Week by Week Fall 2025 (subject to change)

Week 1, Reading/Creating Worlds

- Mon Sept. 15, Introduction
 - What Is Reading?
- Tues Sept. 16, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Sept. 17, Expectations
 - Stanley Fish, “How to Recognize a Poem When You See One” (1980)
 - Dan Porat, “Who Fired First? Students’ Construction of Meaning From One Textbook Account of the Israeli–Arab Conflict” (2006)
- Fri Sept. 19, Worlds
 - Jorge Luis Borges, “The Aleph” (1945) (English) or, in the original Spanish, Jorge Luis Borges, “El Aleph” (1945)
- Sun Sept. 21 Project 1 due by 10 pm
“What’s your Text?”
- Sun Sept. 21 Journal 1 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 2, Reading Things

Visit the Hood exhibit *From Mastodon to Mosaic* before class on Friday, Sept. 26. Visit on your own, with friends or classmates; spend at least 45 minutes in close looking.

- Mon Sept 22, Ordinary Things?
 - David Levy, “Meditation on a Receipt” (2001)
 - Susan Pearce, “Collecting Reconsidered” (1994)
- Tues Sept. 23, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Sept. 24, Extraordinary Things?
 - Tim O’Brien, “The Things They Carried” (1990)
 - Tiya Miles, “All That She Carried” (2021)
- Fri Sep 26, Dialogue with a Reader
 - Guest Reader Ashley Offill, Curator at Dartmouth’s Hood Museum of Art
- Sun Sept. 28 Project 2 due by 10 pm: “What Do Your Things Mean?”
 - Journal 2 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 3, Languages

- Mon Sept. 29, Multilingualism
 - Ngûgĩ wa Thiong’o, “Resistance to Linguistic Feudalism and Darwinism” (2009)

- Michael Erard, "The Small Island Where 500 People Speak 9 Different Languages" (2018)
- Tues Sept. 30, x-hour session: group preparation for Project 3 on translation
 - by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Oct. 1, Translation
 - Walter Benjamin, "The Task of the Translator (1923/1977)
 - Don Mee Choi, "Translation is a Mode=Translation is an Anti-neocolonial Mode" (2016)
- Fri Oct. 3, Transmedia
 - "Garota de Ipanema / The Girl from Ipanema," João Gilberto, Astrud Gilberto, and Stan Getz (1963) (Brazilian Portuguese/English)
 - Olympics Opening Ceremony, Gisele Bündchen (Rio 2016)
 - Haruki Murakami, "The Girl from Ipanema 1963/1982" (English), or in the original Japanese
- Sun Oct. 5 Project 3 due by 10 pm: "Can You Translate That?"
 - Journal 3 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 4, Reading People

- Mon Oct. 6, Imagination
 - Ernst Goffman, "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" (1959)
 - Benedict Anderson, "Imagined Communities" (1983)
 - Bryce Huffman, Same Same Different podcast, "Read the Room" (2019)
- Tues Oct. 7, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Oct. 8, Representation
 - Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation), "Emergence, Politics, and Marketplace of Native American DNA" (2014)
 - Joseph Dumit and Marianne de Laet, "Curves to Bodies: The Material Life of Graphs" (2014)
 - Marisa Parham, "break.dance." (2019)
- Fri Oct. 10, Review and writing day
- Sun Oct. 12, Journal 4 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 5, Cultures

- Mon Oct. 13, In Fiction
 - Jorge Luis Borges, "The Ethnographer" (1969)
 - Nnedi Okorafor, "Kabu Kabu" (2013)
- Tues Oct. 14, x-hour session: group preparation for Project 4 on what difference culture makes

- **by the start of class: Paper 1 due**
- by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Oct 15, In Practice
 - Laura Bohannon, “Shakespeare in the Bush” (1966)
 - Alexa Alice Joubin, “Chinese Shakespeare” (2009)
- Fri Oct 17, Dialogue with a Reader
- Sun Oct. 12 Project 4 due by 10 pm: “What Difference does Culture Make?”
 - Sun Oct. 12, Journal 5 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 6, Time

- Mon Oct 20, Memory and History
 - Michel-Rolph Trouillot, “The Power in the Story” (1995/2015)
 - Marcus Bull, Thinking Medieval: An Introduction to the Study of the Middle Ages (2005)
- Tues Oct. 21, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Oct 22, Who Owns the Past?
 - Stephennie Mulder, “No, People in the Middle East Haven’t Been Fighting Since the Beginning of Time”
 - Adam Bishop, “#DeusVult”
- Fri Oct. 24, Guest Reader TBD or review and writing day
- Sun Oct. 26, Journal 6 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 7, Places/Spaces

- Mon Oct. 27, Everyday Space, In Imagination
 - Michel Foucault, “Of Other Spaces” (1967/1984)
 - Michel de Certeau, “Spatial Stories” (1974/1984)
- Tues Oct. 28, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on reading to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Oct. 29, Imaginary Spaces, In Practice
 - Journey (2012)
 - Jean Baudrillard, “The Precession of Simulacra” (1981/1994)
- Fri Oct. 31, Discussion of film *Faces Places* (2017), dir. Agnès Varda (view film in Canvas before class)
- Sun Nov. 2, Project 5 due by 10 pm: “What’s the Meaning of Your Movements?”
 - Journal 7 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 8, The World Reads You

- Mon Nov. 3, The Gaze and the Code
 - Michel Foucault, “Panopticism” (1975/1979)
 - Autumn Caines, “The Zoom Gaze” (2020)
 - “Coded Bias” (2020), dir. Shalini Kantayya
- Tues Nov. 4, by 10 pm, Quotes & Questions on film to be discussed Wednesday
- Wed Nov. 5, Discussion of film *The Matrix* (1999), dir. Lilly and Lana Wachowski (view film in Canvas before class)
- Fri Nov. 7, Dialogue with a Reader
- Sun Nov. 9, Journal 8 entry due by 10 pm on reading(s) for Monday

Week 9, Fields of knowledge

- Mon. Nov. 10, Education and the Liberal Arts
 - Martianus Capella, “Marriage of Philology and Mercury” (5th century)
 - Jerome Kagan, “The Three Cultures” (2009)
 - Budd Hall and Rajesh Tandon, “Decolonization of Knowledge, Epistemicide, Participatory Research and Higher Education” (2017)
- Tues Nov. 11, x-hour session: group discussion and preparation for Paper 2
- Wed. Nov. 12, Scientists Read the World
 - Marcelo Gleiser, “Creation Myths” (1997)
 - Robin Kimmerer (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), “Hearing the Trees” (2021)
- Fri Nov. 14, Human Nature: The Question and the Answer
 - Marjorie Garber, “Who Owns Human Nature” (2003)

Week 10, Conclusions

- Mon Nov 17, **by the start of class: Paper 2 due**
 - Exam review
- Fri, Nov 21, 3 pm-6 pm
 - Final Exam, “How Will You Read the World?”