Complit 309
Great Works of Modern Literature: The Truth of Others
(T/TH, 2:00pm-3:15pm  219 Curtin Hall)

In this class we are going to explore an experience of modern literature mediated by a narrative encounter with otherness. This otherness can be cultural, social (e.g. class), racial/ethnic, religious, or sexual. We will focus on a range of influential works from different parts of the world and examine how in these works the encounter with otherness unsettles our normal ways of looking at the world, bringing to crisis our value systems, moral compasses, cultural identities, and sense of a stable and coherent self always in control... Central to our study are various textual formations that condition our experience of the encounter, producing an array of literary subjectivities in us capable of answering to the truth of others. We will thus examine how literary texts posit different epistemological relations to this truth and enable our experience of otherness to be productive and authentic. The goal of the course is to expose students to the transformative power of literature and to equip them with ethical and interpretive tools to make sense of a number of influential works produced in diverse cultures under different social conditions so that they can assimilate and critique them in a theoretically informed way. The course satisfies the Humanities GER and L&S International Requirement.

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