

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
ENGL 7471: FORMS OF FICTION
MAGICAL REALISM



Class: M 1:00-4:00 pm
Professor: Eric Schlich
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Office Hours: M 12:30-1:00; W
10:30-11:30, 12:30-1:30; by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will be reading seven contemporary magical realist novels, as well as a handful of short stories that incorporate fantastical elements in their plots. We'll begin with the seminal magical realist work of Gabriel García Márquez, proceed to canonized authors Salman Rushdie and Toni Morrison, then examine novels by magical realist authors from beyond our borders (Laura Esquivel and Haruki Murakami) and within our own country (Karen Russell and George Saunders). This sampling of the genre will give us an understanding of the distinct literary tradition of magical realism in Columbia, India, Mexico, and Japan—as well as in America.

In addition to short response papers and one longer analytical paper on the primary texts, you will present secondary research on one of the seven novels. Finally, you will write your own original magical realist short story, which will be workshopped and revised. All in all, this class will be approximately 2/3 literary study, 1/3 workshop.

TEXTS (TENTATIVE)

Novels:

Esquivel, Laura. *Like Water for Chocolate*. 1989.

García Márquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. 1967.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. 1987.

Murakami, Haruki. *Kafka on the Shore*. 2002.
Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children*. 1981.
Russell, Karen. *Swamplandia!* 2011.
Saunders, George. *Lincoln in the Bardo*. 2017.

Stories:

Bender, Aimee. "The Rememberer" and "The Healer."
García Márquez, Gabriel. "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings."
Kafka, Franz. "The Metamorphosis."
Link, Kelly. "Stone Animals."
Richter, Stacey. "The Cavemen in the Hedges."
Russell, Karen. "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves."
Saunders, George. "The Semplica-Girl Diaries."