This course examines modernist novels and works of short fiction (by Kafka, Zweig, Borges, Eliot and Woolf,) alongside recent popular mainstream films (by the Coen brothers, Spike Jonze and Charlie Kaufman, Wes Anderson, Michael Haneke, Agnès Varda, Noah Baumbach and others) that draw upon techniques, aesthetics and themes of modernist literature (without actually ADAPTING them) in their films.

The format of the class will involve a mixture of lecture and discussion. Normally each period will begin with reading-circle presentations (and the occasional pop quiz), followed by a combined lecture and group discussion informed by student response papers and discussion questions. Course assignments will include ten short response papers; reading circle meetings held outside of class; a take-home midterm, and a short final paper. Screenings will be held from 7-9 pm in our classroom, dates indicated in the syllabus. Films are available on reserve in Howard-Tilton Memorial Library and are readily available for purchase or streaming through online resources (you might want to download Vuze and VLC for viewing). I can also make my own copies of films available for private viewing when necessary.

Required Texts:
Franz Kafka, Selected Stories (Norton Critical edition, Stanley Corngold, ed)
Jorge Luis Borges, Ficciones
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (1925) Harcourt Annotated edition

Films:
Joel and Ethan Coen, A Serious Man (2009)
Agnès Varda, Cléo de 5 à 7 (1962)
Noah Baumbach, Frances Ha (2012)

*Secondary articles and intertextual readings will be distributed in class or made available on the course website
Week 1  T 1/13  Introduction.
W 1/14  Response paper 1 and discussion questions (1-2 pages) emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm – Interpretation of “On Parables”
R 1/15  Discussion “On Parables,” “A Little Fable,” “Give it Up” begin The Metamorphosis

Week 2  T 1/20  Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis
         READING CIRCLE 1
R 1/22  Franz Kafka, “The Judgment,” “Before the Law” excerpts from The Trial
         Hand in Film Vocabulary and Storyboard Assignment
F 1/23  Screening of Joel and Ethan Coen, A Serious Man

Week 3  M 1/26  Response paper 2 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 1/27  Joel and Ethan Coen, A Serious Man
         READING CIRCLE 2
R 1/29  Joel and Ethan Coen, A Serious Man
         READING CIRCLE 3
         Of interest for further reading: Ido Lewit, “The Kafkaesque Cinematic Language of the Coen Brothers”
         Additional films of interest: Orson Welles, The Trial; Steven Soderbergh, Kafka; Woody Allen, Shadows and Fog

Week 4  M 2/3  Response paper 3 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         READING CIRCLE 4
R 2/5  Jorge Luis Borges, “The Aleph,” “The Circular Ruins,” ”The Library of Babel" "Borges and I"
         READING CIRCLE 5
F 2/6  Screening of Spike Jonze/Charlie Kaufman, Adaptation

Week 5  M 2/9  Response paper 4 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 2/10  Spike Jonze/Charlie Kaufman, Adaptation
         READING CIRCLE 1
R 2/12  Adaptation
         READING CIRCLE 2
         Additional films of interest: Charlie Kaufman, Synecdoche New York; Spike Jonze, Being John Malkovich; Spike Jonze, The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Week 6  T 2/17 and  MARDI GRAS BREAK
         R 2/19  MARDI GRAS BREAK
         Take-Home Mid-term Exam circulated via email on 2/19

Week 7  T 2/24  Exam review
         R 2/26  Midterm Exam Due to Professor via email by 5:00 pm
         Please title your attachment “LASTNAME 4100 MIDTERM”

Week 8  M 3/2  Response paper 5 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 3/3  Stefan Zweig, from Beware of Pity
         READING CIRCLE 3
R 3/5  Stefan Zweig, Twenty-Four Hours in the Life of a Woman
         READING CIRCLE 4
F 3/6  Screening of Wes Anderson, Grand Budapest Hotel
Week 9  M 3/9     Response paper 6 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 3/10     Grand Budapest Hotel
         R 3/12     Grand Budapest Hotel
                              READING CIRCLE 5

Week 10 M 3/16     Response paper 7 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 3/17     T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land
         R 3/19     T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land
                              READING CIRCLE 3
         F 3/20     Screening Michael Haneke, Code Inconnu
                              READING CIRCLE 1

Week 11 M 3/23     Response paper 8 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 3/24     Michael Haneke, Code Inconnu
         R 3/26     NO CLASS American Comparative Literature Association Meeting
                              Additional film of interest: Alejandro González Iñarritú, Babel
         T 3/31-    SPRING BREAK begin reading Mrs. Dalloway
         R 4/2

Week 12 M 4/6     Response paper 9 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 4/7      Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (1925)
                              READING CIRCLE 5
         R 4/9      Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (1925)
                              READING CIRCLE 1
         F 4/10     Screening of Agnes Varda, Cleo de 5 à 7

Week 13 M 4/13    Response paper 10 and discussion questions emailed to Professor by 9:00 pm
         T 4/14     Agnes Varda, Cleo de 5 à 7
                              READING CIRCLE 2
         R 4/16     Agnes Varda, Cleo de 5 à 7
                              READING CIRCLE 3
         F 4/17     Screening of Noah Baumbach, Frances Ha

Week 14 T 4/21    Discussion of Frances Ha
                              READING CIRCLE 4
         R 4/23     Discussion of Frances Ha
                              READING CIRCLE 5
         T 4/28     Review and Evaluations (bring your laptops)

M 4/4 Final papers due (5 pages) by 5:00 pm via email
Please title your attachment “LASTNAME 4100 FINAL PAPER”

Rules and Requirements:

- **No laptops** in class, unless specifically requested by professor. Please plan on bringing other materials (e.g., paper, pens) for taking notes. Please silence your mobile phones and put them away during our class meetings.
- If your Tulane email account is not your primary email, please make sure to check it frequently. Please also provide me with your primary email address. I will respond to emails sent M-F within 24 hours, and to emails sent on the weekend within 48.
- All assignments must be completed and submitted to receive course credit. Late work will be penalized by one half a letter grade for each day past the due date.
• More than two unexcused absences will reduce your final course grade by one half a letter grade, and each additional absence by another.
• Plagiarism will be penalized by failure on the assignment and the course, appearance before a university committee, and possible expulsion.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
For Tulane’s stance on academic integrity, please visit the website detailing Tulane’s Code of Academic Conduct: http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm
For Tulane’s Honor Code of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and stated position on plagiarism and inappropriate citation in papers and other written assignments, see http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm

Accommodations for students with disabilities
Students who need academic accommodations because of a documented disability should contact the Goldman Office of Disability Services https://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/ for relevant forms, etc, and should speak with me confidentially as soon as possible to discuss appropriate implementation of course or room adjustments.

Grade Assessment
1) 30% Class Preparation and participation—including consistent attendance, active engagement in class discussion, reading circle participation.
2) 20% Response papers/discussion questions and quizzes
3) 20% Midterm take-home exam
4) 30% Final paper

1) Class Preparation and participation
This class emphasizes active learning. The scholarly community we create in this course will be a group endeavor. Since in every class session you are required to discuss the readings with your peers and with the professor, preparation, attendance and participation are required. Your full intellectual presence is a part of the “social contract” tacit amongst all class members. You will be expected to complete each of the readings before you come to class, be ready to share your ideas about them and to engage the ideas of your peers. Our discussions will sometimes involve intellectual disagreements. We will take care that expressions of differing lines of argument, opinion and point of view should not devolve into personal attacks against our colleagues and interlocutors. I will often call on students Socratically during quieter classes, so please prepared to speak. Please bring your own copies of the reading to seminar. Attendance is required and will be taken at each class. If you miss more than two class meetings, your final grade will be compromised. Students should be on time for class; I will not review material that students miss because they are late or absent without a compelling excuse.

Reading Circles: Students will also take part in reading circles (for detailed instructions, see below). These consist in small pre-assigned groups of students who must meet together—in person—outside of class (on at least three occasions) to discuss points of the assigned material carefully and to formulate discussion questions that they will put to the class for general consideration each week as we embark on a new set of assigned texts. Each session will begin with the assigned reading circle’s report to the class (10 minutes or so) on their discussion of the text. ***Outlines of your reading-circle discussion/presentation and a list of your questions and points of discussion leading are due to Professor Zumhagen-Yekplé via email by 10 pm on the night prior to your class presentation****

2) Regular response papers/discussion questions/ quizzes
This requirement consists in response papers you will write and email to me Monday evenings before Tuesday class meetings on a given topic or author. Due dates are indicated on the syllabus timeline. Your responses may entail close readings of passages from the text, may deal with a particular issue or aspect of the text, may take up confusions of interpretations or any interesting angles or insights you’d like to impart. You should also include in the response questions you’d like to see taken up in class discussion. Responses will be graded with a check, a check plus, or a check minus. Please email all exam, paper and response paper attachments with your Last Name clearly in the title of the document, as in: “LASTNAME 4100 RESPONSE 2” etc.

3) Midterm exam
Take home. Essay questions, open book. 1 comparative question and 5-7 shorter essays about individual
works covered in the first 7 weeks of the course.

4) *Final paper*
Prompts will be distributed. A topic of your choice is also welcome and must be cleared with me by 15 April.

**Reading Circles**
These small groups of students must **meet outside of class**. You may feel to choose your meeting place, be it library, café, dorm room or bar. But you **must meet in person**, and not just virtually via email or over the internet. During reading-circle group meetings, you are to discuss, *carefully and thoroughly*, the set of scheduled readings they have been assigned on the syllabus. Please appoint one member of the group to take minutes. These minutes should include a run-down of all members who attended, the major questions posed and any observations and disagreements, general or individual reactions to the work, things you found interesting, remarkable or problematic in the text or secondary literature, any issues, points of confusion or interpretation, etc. (please give page numbers or flag passages of interest from the text). Along with the minutes, the reading circle group should also submit three substantial questions intended to promote general class discussion, via email, to Professor Zumhagen-Yeklé by **no later than 10:00 pm the day before** the class is slated to discuss the text(s) in question. **Class meetings will begin with a presentation by all members of the Reading Circle group scheduled for that date.** Those members should also be prepared to pose these discussion questions to the class during the class meeting. **Please plan meetings for your assigned reading circle group well in advance of the class discussion of the text to avoid difficulties scheduling meetings the day before.** A provisional email list of contacts is provided on the page below.