In this course we will read and explore literary texts from authors selected for the Nobel Prize in Literature and the Neustadt Award over the last 15 years. Not only will we engage the work of these contemporary authors from many different countries, but we will also look into the history and nature of these literary prizes: who is on the judging body? What is the process by which judges select the recipients? What criteria is used to make the decisions? What kind of canon, if any, does such a list of laureates create?

In addition, I will guide our in-class discussion of the primary texts with introduction of appropriate essays in postcolonial theory (and other theoretical perspectives). Course requirements will include leading an in-class discussion and a major research paper (including a preliminary abstract and a rough draft submitted near mid-semester).

READING SELECTIONS WITH APPROXIMATE DATES:

Week 1:
Mon 8/27
Introduction

Homework: Write up a brief report. Find out who is on the juries for both the Nobel Prize in literature (for the years 2006, 2000, 1994) and the Neustadt Prize (2000, 1996). Explain what your research process was in coming up with the answer. Reflect why the composition of the jury in that year may have been significant in deciding the award winners, or reflect on any other significant findings in your research.

Week 2:
Mon 9/3
NO CLASS – Labor Day

Week 3:
Mon 9/10
Orhan Pamuk, *Snow*.

Week 4
Mon 9/17
Orhan Pamuk, cont.
David Malouf, *Remembering Babylon*.

Week 5:
Mon 9/24
David Malouf, cont.
Week 6:
Mon 10/1
Gao Xingjian, *Soul Mountain*.

Week 7:
Mon 10/8
Gao Xingjian, cont.

Week 8:
Mon 10/15 *(Submit abstract for paper)*
Gao Xingjian, cont.

Week 9:
Mon 10/22
Assia Djebar, *So Vast the Prison*.

Week 10:
Mon 10/29
Assia Djebar, cont.

Week 11:
Mon 11/5
Assia Djebar, cont.

(Week 12: Mon 11/12 *NO CLASS – Veteran’s Day*)

Submit rough draft of paper via email to lmhouston@csuchico.edu before break.

(Week 13: Mon 11/19 *NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break*)

Week 14:
Mon 11/26
Kenzaburo Oe, *The Silent Cry*.

Week 15:
Mon 12/3
Kenzaburo Oe, cont.

Week 16:
Mon 12/10
Kenzaburo Oe, cont.

Mon 12/17
Final paper due by email or in my office (TAYLOR 117) between 2-4 p.m. (or before)