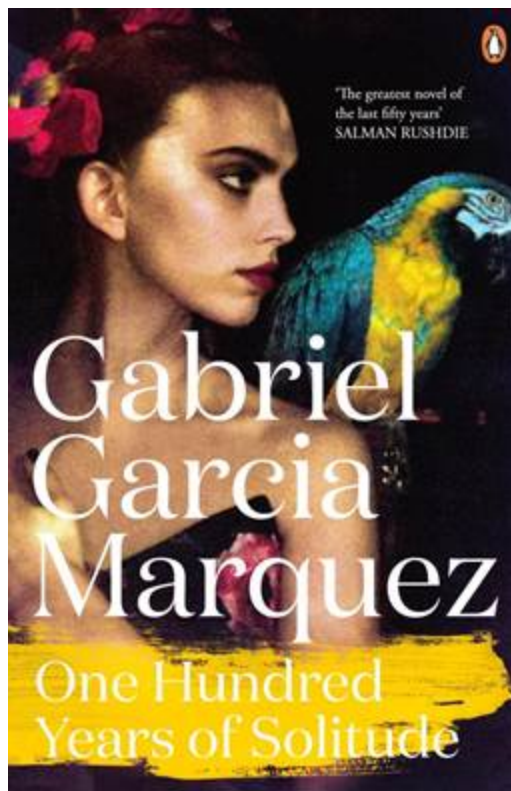


# HL3014: Latin American Literature

This module explores a diverse range of Latin American literatures – including works from Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. It will offer an historical account of the emergence and development of these national literatures, while also focusing on some of the major social and political issues they address. Of particular interest will be the transcultural ‘contact zone’ created by colonialism, the ideological and socioeconomic consequences of slavery, and the enduring conflict between tradition and modernity. We will also

be discussing the early chronicles of discovery and conquest, the significance of magical realism as a mode of representation, and the subgenre of the dictator novel. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include an analysis of the Brazilian film *City of God*, and will introduce students to a number of important theoretical concepts within the field of postcolonial studies.



## Primary Sources

### FICTION

Jorge Luis Borges, *Selected Stories* (Available on NTU Learn)

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Riverhead 2008)

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Harper Perennial Modern Classics 2006)

Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis, *Dom Casmurro* (Oxford University Press 1997)

Juan Gabriel Vásquez, *The Secret History of Costaguana* (Riverhead 2012)

FILM

*City of God* (dir. Fernando Meirelles; 2002)

## Secondary Sources

Efraín Kristal (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel*  
 Gerald Martin, *Journeys Through the Labyrinth: Latin American Fiction in the Twentieth Century*

Edwin Williamson, *The Penguin History of Latin America*

## Assessment

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class participation | 10% |
| Coursework essay    | 40% |
| Examination         | 50% |

## Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott

HSS-03-60

[btscott@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:btscott@ntu.edu.sg)

| Week                | Topics                       | Readings  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b><br>13 Aug  | <b>Introduction</b>          |   |
| <b>2</b><br>20 Aug  | <b>Slavery and Empire I</b>  | Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis, <i>Dom Casmurro</i>   |
| <b>3</b><br>27 Aug  | <b>Slavery and Empire II</b> | Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis, <i>Dom Casmurro</i>   |
| <b>4</b><br>3 Sept  | <b>Fictional Realities</b>   | Jorge Luis Borges, 'The Garden of Forking Paths,' 'Pierre Menard, Author of the <i>Quixote</i> ,' 'The Aleph' |
| <b>5</b><br>10 Sept | <b>Magical Realism I</b>     | Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>  |
| <b>6</b><br>17 Sept | <b>Magical Realism II</b>    | Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>  |

|                     |                                  |   |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|
|                     |                                  | <i>Solitude</i>   |
| <b>7</b><br>24 Sept | <b>Postcolonial Histories I</b>  | Juan Gabriel Vásquez, <i>The Secret History of Costaguana</i> |
| <b>8</b>            | <b>Recess</b>                    |   |
| <b>9</b><br>8 Oct   | <b>Postcolonial Histories II</b> | Juan Gabriel Vásquez, <i>The Secret History of Costaguana</i> |
| <b>10</b><br>15 Oct | <b>Violence and the City</b>     | FILM: <i>City of God</i>                                      |
| <b>11</b><br>22 Oct | <b>The Dictator Novel I</b>      | Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>       |
| <b>12</b><br>29 Oct | <b>The Dictator Novel II</b>     | Junot Díaz, <i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>       |
| <b>13</b><br>5 Nov  | <b>Conclusion/Revision</b>       |   |