



Topics in Fiction: Readings in Contemporary European Novels

ENGWRT 1097 -1100 (32099) | Wednesdays, 6 - 7:30 p.m. | 501 Cathedral of Learning

Try something new this spring! This is a one-credit Pop Up course that meets on seven Wednesday evenings. Shannon Reed will teach this Writing Program course, which is being offered as part of the Pitt Year of Global Europe, with support from the European Studies Center.

The course will have a low-key, book club feel as we gather to discuss five novels written by contemporary European authors, including Italian writer Elena Ferrante's highly acclaimed *My Brilliant Friend* and British author Ned Beuman's *Glow*, about the drug and dance underworld in modern-day London. Other books are *Go Went Gone* by the German author Jenny Erpenbeck, which tells the story of a retired professor who begins to learn about the African refugees living in his city, and *The Dinner* by the Dutch writer Herman Koch, a book often called "a European *Gone Girl*." For our fifth and final book, we'll read the Portuguese writer David Machado's *The Shelf Life of Happiness*. Machado will be visiting Pitt in April, and we will have the opportunity to hear him read!

Throughout our readings, we'll consider the place—past, present, and even future—of Europe in the world. We'll particularly ponder what we, as writers, readers and thinkers, can learn from narrative European fiction, and the differences and similarities between European and American writers.

Students will be expected to complete short writing assignments for each class and a short, reflective paper at the end of the semester, due during finals week. While this course is part of the Creative Writing program in Pitt's English department, students at all levels and from any department are welcome to join it.

If you have questions, please contact Shannon Reed at SBRI7@pitt.edu.