

EVERGREEN FORUM FALL 2023

NOBEL PRIZE WRITERS WAIT FOR THE BARBARIANS

LOIS HARROD

Wednesdays starting September 27 through November 15 for eight sessions | 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL | LECTURE/DISCUSSION | MAXIMUM 20

Overview

What do five recent Nobel Prize in Literature winners have to say about current issues: Abortion and Sexism (Annie Ernaux's *The Happening*); Artificial Intelligence (Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*); Extinction (Olga Tokarczuk's, *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*), and Injustice, Feat and Fake News (Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*)? Louise Glück's poems will be used to highlight the concerns of her fellow Nobel Prize writers in this "book club on steroids," a course in which participants will read thoughtfully and come to class prepared to discuss. Our meetings will be by Zoom with the exception of the Culminating Party (extra 9th class TBA).

Lois Marie Harrod's 18th book of poems, *Spat*, was published in 2021. Lifelong educator, Dodge Poet, her poems are widely published.

Reading List

- Louise Glück, *Poems, Selected Poems*, poems provided by email and in dropbox.
- Annie Ernaux, *Happening*, translated Tanya Leslie. Seven Stories Press (with cover of girl and bed) and *The Young Man*, to be released 9/12/23 (to be discussed at our in-person at our culminating party)
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *Klara and the Sun*, Vintage (Penguin) 2022, red cover.
- Olga Tokarczuk, *Drive Your Plow of the Bones of the Dead*. Riverhead Books 2018 (pink, blue and black strips or furrows on the cover)
- J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*, Penguin Ink Series (girl with bangs surrounded by flowers on cover). A free PDF of book will also be provided.

****COURSE SCHEDULE ON NEXT PAGE****

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week | Assignment | Themes - To Be Elaborated |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 1 | ANNIE ERNAUX' S THE HAPPENING. | OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHAT HAPPENS TO HER BODY |
| WEEK 2 | WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS, PAGES 1-77 | CAVAFY'S POEM: WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS, FAKE NEWS, FEAR, TERROR, TORTURE. |
| WEEK 3 | WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS, PAGES 78-180 | "THERE HAS BEEN SOMETHING STARING ME IN THE FACE AND I STILL DO NOT SEE IT." |
| WEEK 4 | KLARA AND THE SUN, PAGES 1-154 | THE UPSIDE OF AI |
| WEEK 5 | KLARA AND THE SUN, PAGES 1-154 | THE DOWNSIDE OF AI |
| WEEK 6 | DRIVE YOUR PLOW OVER THE BONES OF THE DEAD, PAGES 1-94 | THE SELECTIVE LIMITS PLACED ON SOME LIVES BUT NOT OTHERS. WHO IS THE HERO? |
| WEEK 7 | DRIVE YOUR PLOW OVER THE BONES OF THE DEAD, PAGES 95-192 | HUMAN CORRUPTION AND HUMAN NATURE. HUMAN BOUNDARIES. |
| WEEK 8 | DRIVE YOUR PLOW OVER THE BONES OF THE DEAD, PAGES 193-274 | WHACKINESS AND REDEMPTION—HOW TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE. |
| Culminating Party in 3-D at PSRC | ERNAUX'S NEWEST BOOK, THE YOUNG MAN, TO BE RELEASED 9/12/23 | ERNAUX'S NEWEST BOOK, THE YOUNG MAN, TO BE RELEASED 9/12/23—LATE LIFE PASSION |