In COM 4, we will study the literature of the contemporary world (1945 to the present), and the globalizing forces, both centrifugal and centripetal, that have come sharply into focus since then. The plays, novels, short stories, poems, and essays which we will read in this course present the great diversity of voices and perspectives in our era, the complexity that arrives with the awareness of difference. And yet, each of these works also strives to describe the human condition ever more clearly, a universal endeavor. By engaging these voices, we will be exploring what roles literature plays in helping us to understand and imagine our own place in the world as well as the border-crossings that connect us to others. In a broader sense, we will be using literature to think about what it means to be a “global citizen”.

Prerequisite: Subject A Requirement
GE Credit: Art & Humanities, World Cultures, Writing Experience
Fulfills UCD Lower Division Writing Requirement

Major Texts:
Hermann Hesse, The Journey to the East
Kwame Anthony Appiah, Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers
Joy Harjo, A Map to the Next World: Poems and Tales
Alai, Red Poppies: A Novel of Tibet
German Sadulaev, I am a Chechen!