

ENG 123 X50: Comparative 1848s: Empire and Cultures of Revolution

The decade of the eighteen-sixties gave us three extraordinary novels. All of them could be described as turning on a single theme—the republican revolutions that wracked the century so far in France, Germany, and Italy: Hugo’s *Les Miserables*, Flaubert’s *L’education Sentimental*, and Verne’s *20, 000 lieues sous la mer*. All read in the same month—what a dialogue they construct with one another!

—Samuel R. Delany “Shadow and Ash”

English 123 introduces students to post-secondary studies in English through world literatures. Focusing on materials from an array of historical and cultural contexts, it addresses cultural forms, history, and human spirit through literatures in a global perspective.

Required Texts*

Comparative 1848s Coursepack.

George Lippard *Legends of Mexico*

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels *The Communist Manifesto*. Ed. Len Findlay.

Imre Madách *The Tragedy of Man*

Jean Rhys *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Course Reading/Unit Schedule

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| 09 July | Benjamin “The Task of the Translator.” Baudelaire “Every Man His Chimera.” |
| 11 July | Dickens “Chapter 1: Dombey and Son.” Dostoyevsky “Chapter One: The Underground.” |
| 16 July | Lippard <i>Legends of Mexico</i> . Short Analysis Due |
| 18 July | Lippard <i>Legends of Mexico</i> . McCarthy “IX.” and “Epilogue.” |
| 23 July | Marx and Engels <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> . Marx “The Class Struggles in France, 1848-1850.” |
| 25 July | Arnold “Preface.” <i>Culture and Anarchy</i> . Lukács “The Historical Novel and the Crisis of Bourgeois Realism.” Essay #1 Due |
| 30 July | Madách <i>The Tragedy of Man</i> . |
| 1 August | Madách <i>The Tragedy of Man</i> . Petőfi “National Song.” |
| 6 August | Rhys <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> . In-Class Screening <i>Jane Eyre</i> Essay #2 Due |
| 8 August | Rhys <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> . Brown “The Eidaesthetic Itinerary.” |
| 13 August | Szeman “Globalization.” |