World Literature — Shopping List and Syllabus

For most weeks, when possible, it is recommended students have personal copies that allow them to write in, underline, take notes, and at all times actively engage.

Used Books vs Library

Most books on this list are classic works easy to find used for under $6, although library copies are also often plentiful.

Exception: Maus and Persepolis are pricier graphic novels and you may wish to order from library here.

HOWEVER: I do have 20 copies of Persepolis for sale for $10, and 6 copies of Maus, both volumes for $10.

Buying note: Used books from **BetterWorldBooks.com** and **Amazon** are recommended. www.BetterWorldBooks.com often runs **15–20% off sales**.

Notes are included where books may be pricier or where purchase is required. For instance, the Concise and Brief history books Russia/China/India can not be read and digested, they must be noted, underlined, and used as reference in later reading weeks.

Any changes to this list will be announced. The order here corresponds to the syllabus. So, good to have the first two months work in hand before September.

Logistics of Supplies

As a parent who has had 4 of my children take this class, I found it easiest to put in a $150 order for used books, and note with a highlighter which weeks I decided to order from library instead. That way, my students could just go each Sunday/Monday and pick the work for the next week right off my shelf. 23 books x $6 avg for used = $138, with a little library ordering you should keep the cost below $150 for the year.

There are 23 purchases on the shopping list below, for the year, with many of the other weeks covered by handouts or links or pdf files.

I will determine the easiest way to get the material for handout weeks to you each week.

#	Book / Assignment	Author	Translation / Notes
1	Candide	Voltaire	Preferred: Theo Cuffe. or Robert M. Adams
2	The Misanthrope	Molière	Preferred: Richard Wilbur
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase —	Vladimir Nabokov; Heinrich Heine; Rainer Maria Rilke; Gottfried Benn	Handout provided
	"Details of a Sunset"		+ selected Heine / Rilke / Benn poetry
3	Demian	Hermann Hesse	Preferred: Damion Searls
4	The Trial	Franz Kafka	Preferred: Breon Mitchell
5	Maus Vol 1 AND Vol 2	Art Spiegelman	Easy library order; otherwise may be pricier
6	Man's Search for Meaning	Viktor E. Frankl	
7	An Enemy of the People	Henrik Ibsen	Preferred: Rebecca Meech
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase	Wisława Szymborska	Poetry
8	A Short History of Russia	Mark Galeotti	Purchase required
9	Fathers and Sons	Ivan Turgenev	Preferred: Ignat Avsey
10	The Death of Ivan Ilyich	Leo Tolstoy	Preferred: Richard Pevear & Volokhonsky
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase —	Charles Simic	poetry
11	White Nights	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Preferred: Ronald Meyer
JANUARY TERM BEGINS			
12	One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn	Preferred: H. T. Willetts
13	Invisible Cities	Italo Calvino	Preferred: William Weaver
14	Fuente Ovejuna	Lope de Vega	Preferred: Victor Dixon
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase —	Jorge Luis Borges; Pablo Neruda; Antonio Machado	Handout provided

	Borges stories + Neruda / Machado poetry		
15	The House of Bernarda Alba	Federico García Lorca	Preferred: Michael Dewell & Carmen Zapata.
	Lorca poems by handout		Lorca poems by handout
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase	Yehuda Amichai	Handout provided
16	The Shortest History of China	Linda Jaivin	Purchase required
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase — Analects selections	Confucius	Handout provided
17	To Live	Yu Hua	Preferred: Michael Berry
18	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood	Marjane Satrapi	Easy library order; otherwise may be pricier
19	Kokoro	Natsume Sōseki	Preferred: Meredith McKinney
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase — Bashō haiku selections	Matsuo Bashō	Handout provided
	CLASS HANDOUT, no purchase — “In a Grove” + Rashōmon film	Ryūnosuke Akutagawa; Akira Kurosawa	Handout / film
20	The Shortest History of India	John Zubrzycki	Purchase required
21	The Guide	R. K. Narayan	
22	Untouchable	Mulk Raj Anand	
23	For Whom the Bell Tolls	Ernest Hemingway	

CURRENT SCHEDULE ON NEXT PAGE

World Literature Calendar — 32-Week Syllabus

“Literature is an axe for the frozen sea within us.” — Franz Kafka

🇫🇷 FRANCE AND GERMANY BLOCK

1	September 4	Candide — Voltaire
2	September 11	The Misanthrope — Molière
3	September 18	HANDOUTS Nabokov, “Details of a Sunset” + Selected Poetry: Heine / Rilke / Benn
4	September 25	Demian — Hermann Hesse
5	October 2	The Trial — Franz Kafka

HOLOCAUST LITERATURE

6	October 9	Maus I & II — Art Spiegelman
7	October 16	Man’s Search for Meaning — Viktor Frankl

🇳🇴/ SCANDINAVIA

8	October 23	An Enemy of the People — Henrik Ibsen

🇷🇺 RUSSIA BLOCK

9	October 30	A Short History of Russia, Part I + HANDOUTS Selected Poetry — Wisława Szymborska
10	November 6	A Short History of Russia, Part II
11	November 13	Fathers and Sons — Turgenev, Part I
12	November 20	Fathers and Sons — Turgenev, Part II
—	**November 27**	**NO CLASS — Thanksgiving**
13	December 4	The Death of Ivan Ilyich — Tolstoy
—	**December 11**	**NO CLASS — Christmas Recital/Luncheon**
14	December 18	Dostoevsky, “White Nights” + HANDOUTS Charles Simic poetry
—	**December 25**	**NO CLASS — Christmas break**

SECOND SEMESTER

—	**January 1**	**NO CLASS — Christmas break**
15	January 8	One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich — Solzhenitsyn

🌍 ITALY

16	January 15	Invisible Cities — Italo Calvino

🎭 🇪🇸 SPAIN BLOCK

17	January 22	Fuente Ovejuna — Lope de Vega
18	January 29	HANDOUTS Borges selected stories + Poetry: Neruda / Machado
19	February 5	The House of Bernarda Alba + HANDOUTS Lorca poems
🌍 **MEMORIZE YOUR FAVORITE POEM**		
20	February 12	HANDOUTS Israel Poetry — Yehuda Amichai + “Memorize your favorite poem” exercise
—	**February 19**	**NO CLASS — Winter Break**
🇨🇳 **CHINA BLOCK**		
21	February 26	Shortest History of China ⅔ + HANDOUTS Analects ⅓
22	March 5	Shortest History of China ⅔ + HANDOUTS Analects ⅓
23	March 12	To Live — Yu Hua, with evening class movie To Live, location TBD
🧭 **IRAN**		
24	March 19	Persepolis, Vol. 1 — Marjane Satrapi (only Vol 1)
—	**March 26**	**NO CLASS — Good Friday**
🇯🇵 **JAPAN BLOCK**		
25	April 2	Kokoro I — Natsume Sōseki
26	April 9	Kokoro II + HANDOUTS Bashō haiku
27	April 16	HANDOUTS Akutagawa, “In a Grove” + Rashōmon film
—	**April 23**	**NO CLASS — April Vacation**
🇮🇳 **INDIA BLOCK**		
28	April 30	Shortest History of India — John Zubrzycki
29	May 7	The Guide — R.K. Narayan
30	May 14	Untouchable — Mulk Raj Anand
🎯 **CAPSTONE — AMERICAN IN SPANISH CIVIL WAR**		
31	May 21	For Whom the Bell Tolls, Part I — Hemingway
32	May 28	For Whom the Bell Tolls, Part II — Hemingway
33	June 4	Graduation / makeup / buffer week