Novel Study Unit

Thematic List of Novels

**Bookstores**

Chapters

Indigo

World’s Biggest Bookstore (Edward Street)

Book City (Bloor east of Bathurst)

Nicholas Hoare (Front Street at Church)

Toronto Women’s Bookstore (Harbord Street)

A Different Booklist (Bathurst south of Bloor)

B.M.V. (Yonge north of Eglinton, Bloor east of Bathurst)

**\* Word Power Made Easy** by Norman Lewis (Pub. Pocket Books)

1. **Native-American/Native-Canadian Fiction**

Joseph Boyden ● Through Black Spruce

● Three Day Road

Michael Dorris ● A Yellow Raft in Blue Water

Louise Erdrich ● The Beet Queen

● Love Medicine

● Tracks

● The Antelope-Wife

Thomas King ● Green Grass, Running Water

Barbara Kingsolver ● Animal Dreams

● The Bean Trees

2. **African**

Chinua Achebe ● Arrow of God

● No Longer at Ease

Adichie ● Half of a Yellow Sun

● Purple Hibiscus

● The Thing Around Your Neck

John Briley ● Cry Freedom

Andre Brink ● A Chain of Voices

● An Instant in the Wind

● A Dry, White Season

J.M. Coetzee ● Disgrace

● The Life and Times of Michael K.

● Boyhood

Joseph Conrad ● Heart of Darkness

Achmat Dangor ● Bitter Fruit

Lewis De Soto ● A Blade of Grass

Tsitsi Dangarembga ● Nervous Conditions

Athol Fugard ● Blood Knot

● Tsotsi

Nadine Gordimer ● Beethoven was a Sixteenth Black

● July’s People

● Loot

● My Son’s Story

● The Pickup

Barbara Kingsolver ● The Poisonwood Bible

Rian Malan ● My Traitor’s Heart

V.S. Naipaul ● Guerillas

Ben Okri ● Famished Road

Alan Paton ● Cry the Beloved Country

Shashi Tharoor ● Riot

Ngugi wa Thiong’o ● River Between

3. **African-American/ African-Canadian**

James Baldwin ● Go Tell It On the Mountain

Edward Jones ● The Known World

Carolivia Herron ● Hereafter Johnny

Toni Morrison ● Beloved

● Jazz

● Mercy

● Paradise

● Sula

● Love

● Tar Baby

● The Bluest Eye

Gloria Naylor ● The Women of Brewster Place

● Mama Day

Richard Powers ● The Time of our Singing

Simone Schwarz-Bart ● The Bridge of Beyond

Susan Straight ● I Been In Sorrow’s Kitchen and Licked Out

All The Pots

Alice Walker ● The Colour Purple

● By The Light of My Father’s Smile

● Possessing the Secret of Joy

William Styron ● The Confessions of Nat Turner

4. **Slavery**

Andre Brink ● A Chain of Voices

Patrick Chamoiseau ● Texaco

Maryse Conde I ● Tituba

Nadine Gordimer ● Conservationist

Lawrence Hill ● The Book of Negroes

Edward Jones ● The Known World

Earl Lovelace ● Salt

Caryl Phillips ● Crossing The River

William Styron ● The Confessions of Nat Turner

5. **Caribbean**

Tony Cade Bambara ● The Salt Eaters

Erna Brodber ● Jane & Louisa Will Soon Come Home

ed. Margaret Busby ● Daughters of Africa

Edwidge Danticat ● Breath, Eyes, Memory

● Krik Krak!

Zee Edgell ● Beka Lamb

Ramabai Espinet ● The Swinging Bridge

Dwado Agymah Kaman ● Flickering Shadows

Jamaica Kincaid ● Annie John

Earl Lovelace ● The Dragon Can’t Dance

● The Wine of Astonishment

Paule Marshall ● Praise Song for the Widow

N. Nigel Thomas ● Spirits in the Dark

Yvonne Vera ● Nehanda

6. **Latin-American/Hispanic**

Isabel Allende ● Paula

● Daughter of Fortune

● Portrait in Sepia

Julie Alvarez ● How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Arenas ● The Singing from the Well

Sandra Cisneros ● The House on Mango Street

Christina Garcia ● Dreaming in Cuban

Gabriel Garcia Marquez ● One Hundred Years of Solitude

● The General in his Labyrinth

Carlos Ruiz Zafón ● The Shadow of the Wind

7. **Canadian**

David Adams Richard ● Mercy Among the Children

Margaret Atwood ● The Handmaid’s Tale

● Cat’s Eye

● The Blind Assassin

● Alias Grace

Michael Crummey ● River Thieves

● Wreckage

Gail Anderson-Dargatz ● Cure for Death By Lightning

● Recipe for Bees

Robertson Davies ● Fifth Business

● The Manticore

● World of Wonders

Elizabeth Hay ● Late nights on Air

● A Student of Weather

Lori Lansens ● The Girls

Margaret Laurence ● The Stone Angel

● The Diviners

● A Bird in the House

● A Jest of God

Anne-Marie MacDonald ● Fall on Your Knees

Alistair McLeod ● The Lost Salt Gift of Blood

● No Great Mischief

● The Island

Donna Morrissey ● Kit’s Law

● Downhill Chance

● Sylvanus Now

● What they Wanted

Alice Munro ● Hateship, Courtship, Love, and Marriage

Beth Powning ● Hatbox Letters

● Shadow Child

Anne Proulx ● Shipping News

Mordecai Richler ● The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz

● St. Urbain’s Horseman

Carol Shields ● Stone Diaries

● Unless

Jane Urquhart ● Away

● Changing Heaven

● Stonecarvers

Richard Wright ● Clara Callan

8. **Irish**

Sebastian Barry ● The Secret Scripture

Mary Becket ● Give Them Stones

Mickey Clement ● The Irish Princess

Ann Enright ● The Gathering

Charles Foran ● The Last House of Ulster

Dermot Healey ● Goatsong

Neil Jordan ● Shade

Frank McCourt ● Angela’s Ashes

M. McDonagh ● Beauty Queen of Leenan

● The Wild West

John McGahern ● Amongst Women

● All Will Be Well

Nuala O’Faolin ● Are You Somebody?

● My Dream of You

● Almost There

Jamie O’Neill ● At Swim Two Boys

John Synge ● Playboy of the Western World

Deborah Tall ● The Island of the White Cow

Colm Toibin ● Brooklyn

● The Heather Blazing

9. **Indian**

Anita Rau Badami ● Tamarind Mem

● Can you Hear the Nightbird Call?

Rupa Bajwa ● The Sari Shop

Shauna Singh Baldwin ● What the Body Remembers

Anita Desai ● Baumgartner’s Bombay

● Village By The Sea

● Fire on the Mountain

● Fasting, Feasting

● Peacock Garden

● Clear Light of Day

● The Sari Shop

Kiran Desai ● The Inheritance of Loss

● Hullaballoo in the Gwava Orchard

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni ● Arranged Marriage

Jhumpa Lahiri ● Interpreter of Maladies

● The Namesake

● Unaccustomed Earth

Kamala Markandaya ● Nectar in a Sieve

Rohinton Mistry ● A Fine Balance

● Family Matters

● Such a Long Journey

● Tales from Firozsha Baag

Bharati Mukherjee ● Desirable Daughters

● The Tree Bride

Arundhati Roy ● The God of Small Things

Manil Sur ● Arresting God in Kathmandu(short stories)

Thrity Umrigar ● The Space Between Us

● If Today Be Sweet

10. **Muslim Culture**

Diana Abu-Jaber ● The Swallows of Kabul

Lorraine Adams ● Harbor

Aravind Adiga ● Between the Assassinations

● White Tiger

Alaa Al Aswany ● The Yacoubian Building

Monica Ali ● Brick Lane

Nadeem Aslam ● Maps for Lost Lovers

Tahar ben Jellown ● The Sand Child

● Shabana

Neil Bissoondath ● The Unyielding Clamour of the Night

Geraldine Brooks ● Nine Parts of Desire

Mohsin Hamid ● The Reluctant Fundamentalist

● Moth Smoke

Khaled Hosseini ● The Kite Runner

● A Thousand Splendid Suns

Orhan Pamuk ● Snow

Nelofer Pazira ● A Bed of Red Roses

Nahid Rachin ● Jumping Over Fire

Salman Rushdie ● Shalimar The Clown

Saira Shah ● The Storyteller’s Daughter

Bapsi Sidhwa ● The Crow-Eaters

● The Pakistani Bride

● Ice Candy Man (Cracking India)

Alison Wearing ● Honeymoon in Purdah

10. **Multicultural England**

Andrea Levy ● Small Island

Zaide Smith ● White Teeth

● On Beauty

Gautam Malkani ● Londonstani

11. **Holocaust**

Alicia Appleman-Jurman ● Alicia: My Story

Dennis Bok ● The Ash Garden

Ursula Hegi ● Stones From the River

Jerzy Koszinski ● The Painted Bird

Anne Michaels ● Fugitive Pieces

Irene Nemirovsky ● Suite Française

Thomas Powers ● In The Memory of The Forest

Bernard Schlink ● The Reader

Rachel Seiffert ● The Dark Room

William Styron ● Sophie’s Choice

Elie Wiesel ● Night

Arnold Zable ● Jewels and Ashes

12. **Family**

Jhumpa Lahiri ● The Namesake

● Unaccustomed Earth

Mary Lawson ● Crow Lake

● The Other Side of the Bridge

Ian McEwan ● Atonement

● Black Dogs

● Saturday

● Chesil Beach

Gloria Naylor ● Mama Day

Carol Shields ● Stone Diaries

13. **Asian**

Arthur Golden ● Memoirs of a Geisha

Maxine Hong Kingston ● The Woman Warrior

Joy Kogawa ● Obasan

Alan Paton ● Cry, The Beloved Country

Lisa See ● Snowflower and the Secret Fan

Amy Tan ● The Joy Luck Club

● The Kitchen God’s Wife

● Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress

14. **Scandanavian**

Knut Hamsun ● Pan

● Victoria

Sigrid Undset ● The Axe

● Kristen Lavransdatter

1. 15. **Russian**

Dostoevsky ● The Brothers Karamazov

● The Idiot

Leo Tolstoy ● War & Peace

● Anna Karenina

1. 16. **American**

James Agee ● A Death in the Family

Michael Cunningham ● The Hours

William Faulkner ● As I Lay Dying

● The Sound and The Fury

● Absalom, Absalom

Arthur Miller ● The Crucible

● All My Sons

● Death of a Salesman

Eugene O’Neil ● Long Day’s Journey into Night

Richard Powers ● The Time of our Singing

John Steinbeck ● Of Mice and Men

● The Grapes of Wrath

Tennessee Williams ● The Glass Menagerie

● Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

● Summer and Smoke

● Suddenly Last Summer

17. **Mythology**

Margaret Atwood ● The Penelopiad

Marion Bradley-Zimmer ● Lady of Avalon

● The Forest House

● The Mists of Avalon

Joseph Campbell ● Hero With a Thousand Faces

Robertson Davies ● Fifth Business

● The Manticore

● World of Wonders

J.G. Frazer ● The Golden Bough

Seamus Heaney ● Boewulf

Kerr-Bennett ● Myth

Fay Sampson ● Wise Woman’s Telling

Dr. Jean Shinoda-Bolen ● Goddesses in Every Woman

● Gods in Every Man

Mary Stewart ● The Crystal Cave

● The Hollow Hills

● The Last Enchantment

Barbara Walker ● Woman’s Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets

T.H. White ● The Once and Future King

Crista Wolf ● Cassandra

18. **Myth-Related Drama**

Aeschylus ● Agamemnon

● Electra

Euripedes ● The Birds

● Trojan Women

Girodaux ● Electra

Racine ● Phèdre

Sartre ● The Flies

Sophocles ● Antigone

● Oedipus

19. **Victorian/Romanticism**

Charlotte Bronte ● Jane Eyre

Emily Bronte ● Wuthering Heights

John Fowles ● The French Lieutenant’s Woman

● The Magus

Thomas Hardy ● Far from the Madding Crowd

● Jude the Obscure

● Return of the Native

● The Mayor of Casterbridge

● Tess of the D’Urbervilles

D.H. Lawrence ● Sons and Lovers

● The Rainbow

20. **Rite of Passage/Childhood**

Dorothy Allison ● Bastard Out of Carolina

Julie Alvarez ● How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents

John Bemrose ● Island Walkers

Tahar ben Jellown ● The Sand Child

● Shabana

Paulo Coehlo ● The Alchemist

Jill Ker Conway ● The Road from Coorain

Charles Dickens ● Oliver Twist

● A Tale of Two Cities

Emmanuel Donaga ● Little Boys Come From the Stars

Timothy Findley ● The Last of the Crazy People

Richard Ford ● Wildlife

Athol Fugard ● Tsotsi

William Golding ● Lord of the Flies

Herman Hesse ● Siddhartha

● Narcissus and Goldmunde

Richard Hughes ● A High Wind in Jamaica

Frances Itani ● Deafening

Jamaica Kincaid ● Annie John

Barbara Kingsolver ● Animal Dreams

● The Bean Trees

George Lamming ● In the Castle of My Skin

Bobbie Ann Mason ● In Country

Frank McCourt ● Angela’s Ashes

Ian McEwan ● Atonement

William McPherson ● Testing the Current

Yukio Mishima ● The Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea

Alice Munro ● Lives of Girls and Women

Nabakov ● Lolita

Nuala O’Faolin ● Are You Somebody?

● Almost There

Radojcic ● You Don’t Have to Live Here

Nino Ricci ● In A Glass House

● Where She Has Gone

Alice Sebold ● The Lovely Bones

Samuel Selvon ● Brighter Sun

Mona Simpson ● Anywhere But Here

John Steinbeck ● Of Mice and Men

● Grapes of Wrath

Ngugi wa Thiongo’o ● Petals in Blood

Mark Twain ● The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

21. **Allegory**

Paulo Coehlo ● The Alchemist

Herman Hesse ● Siddhartha

● Narcissus and Goldmunde

Anosh Irani ● The Cripple and His Talisman

Ismail Kadar ● Palace of Dreams

22. **War**

1. Sebastian Barry ● A Long Long Way
2. Pierre Boulle ● Bridge over the River Kwai

Joseph Boyden ● Three Day Road

Sebastian Faulks ● Birdsong

Timothy Findley ● The Wars

Charles Foran ● The Last House of Ulster

Steven Galloway ● The Cellist of Sarajevo

Graham Greene ● Quiet American

T.E. Lawrence ● Revolt in the Desert

Bobbie Ann Mason ● In Country

Boris Pasternak ● Dr. Zhivago

Dalton Trumbo ● Johnny Got His Gun

23. **Science Fiction**

Kurt Vonnegut ● Cat’s Cradle

24. **Gothic, Horror**

Mary Shelley ● Frankenstein

Bram Stoker ● Dracula

25. **Satire, Dystopia**

Margaret Atwood ● The Handmaid’s Tale

● The Penelopiad

Aldous Huxley ● Brave New World

Franz Kafka ● The Trial

● The Castle

● Metamorphosis

George Orwell ● 1984

Ian McEwan ● Saturday

● Black Dogs

● Chesil Beach

26. **The Rebel**

Chinua Achebe ● No Longer At Ease

Thea Astley ● Beachmasters

Anita Desai ● Fire on the Mountain

Athol Fugard ● Blood Knot

Nadine Gordimer ● Conservationist

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala ● Heat and Dust

Earl Lovelace ● Salt

R.K. Narayan ● Vendor of Sweets

Ben Okri ● Landscapes Within

1. 27. **Political Corruption**

Adichie ● Half of a Yellow Sun

Ayi Kwei Armah ● Beautyful Ones Are Not Yet Born

Joseph Conrad ● Heart of Darkness

A. Djoreto ● Hurricane of Dust

Rohinton Mistry ● A Fine Balance

V.S. Naipaul ● A Bend in the River

Ben Okri ● Flowers and Shadows

George Orwell ● Burmese Days

Nayantara Sahgal ● Rich Like Us

Ngugi wa Thiong’o ● Petals in Blood

1. 28. **Magic Realism**

George Bowering ● Burning Water

Bessie Head ● Question of Power

Gabriel Garcia Marquez ● One Hundred Years of Solitude

● Love In The Time of Cholera

Anosh Irani ● The Cripple and his Talisman

Ben Okri ● Famished Road

● Songs of Enchantment

Salman Rushdie ● The Enchantress of Florence

● Midnight’s Children

● Shalimar The Clown

● The Satanic Verses

Carlos Ruz Zafon ● The Shadow of the Wind

1. 29. **Marriage**

Shauna Singh Baldwin ● What the Body Remembers

Anita Desai ● Fire on the Mountain

Nadine Gordimer ● My Son’s Story

● The Pick Up

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala ● Heath and Dust

Somerset Maugham ● Painted Veil

Bharati Mukherjee ● Desirable Daughters

R.K. Narayan ● Vendor of Sweets

Michael Ondaatje ● The English Patient

Boris Pasternak ● Dr. Zhivago

A.B. Yehoshua ● Five Seasons

2. 30. **Poverty**

Charles Dickens ● Great Expectations

Earl Lovelace ● Dragon Can’t Dance

Rohinton Mistry ● Fine Balance

● Such A Long Journey

Ben Okri ● Famished Road

● Songs of Enchantment

Zadie Smith ● White Teeth

1. 31. **Death of an Empire**

Philippa Blake ● Heat of the Moment

Elizabeth Cadell ● Lion in the Way

David Davidar ● House of Blue Mangoes

Gita Mehta ● Raj

Paul Mark Scott ● Jewel in the Crown

● Day of the Scorpion

● Towers of Silence

● Division of Spoils

1. 32. **Religion**

Barbara Kingsolver ●The Poisonwood Bible

Robertson Davies ● Fifth Business

**Extended Essay Reading List**

**Holocaust**

Fugitive Pieces Anne Michaels

The Reader Bernard Schlinck

The Dark Room Rachel Seiffert

Stones from the River Ursula Hegi

Sophie’s Choice William Styron

The Ash Garden Dennis Bok

Suite Française Irene Nemirovsky

**South Africa/Africa**

Disgrace J.M. Coetzee

My Son’s Story Nadine Gordimer

The Pickup Nadine Gordimer

Loot Nadine Gordimer

Bitter Fruit Achmat Dangor

A Blade of Grass Lewis de Soto

The Poisonwood Bible Barbara Kingsolver

A Chain of Voices Andre Brink

Half of a Yellow Sun Adichie

Purple Hibiscus Adichie

**Slavery**

A Chain of Voices Andre Brink

The Confessions of Nat Turner William Styron

The Known World Edward Jones

The Book of Negroes Lawrence Hill

**The American South**

A Death in the Family James Agee

The Time of our Singing Richard Powers

The Sound and the Fury William Faulkner

**Romanticism**

Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte

Tess of the D’Urbervilles Thomas Hardy

Far From the Madding Crowd Thomas Hardy

The Return of the Native Thomas Hardy

Mme Bovary Flaubert (French)

Anna Karenina Tolstoy (Russian)

The French Lieutenant’s Woman John Fowles

**Irish**

At Swim Two Boys Jamie O’Neill

The Sea John Banville

All Will Be Well John McGahern

**India**

Desirable Daughters Bharati Mukherjee

The Tree Bride Bharati Mukherjee

The God of Small Things Arundhati Roy

A Fine Balance Rohinton Mistry

Family Matters Rohinton Mistry

What The Body Remembers Shauna Singh Baldwin

Interpreter of Maladies Jhumpa Lahiri

The Namesake Jhumpa Lahiri

Can you Hear The Nightbird Call? Anita Rau Badami

Tamarind Men Anita Rau Badami

Vine of Desire Divakaruni

The Space Between Us Thrity Umrigar

If Today Be Sweet Thrity Umrigar

The Sari Shop Rupa Bajwa

The Inheritance of Loss Kiran Desai

**Muslim Culture**

Maps for Lost Lovers Nadeem Aslam

Brick Lane Monica Ali

Shalimar The Clown Salman Rushdie

The Pakistani Bride Bapsi Sidhwa

Ice Candy Man (Cracking India) Bapsi Sidhwa

The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini

A Thousand Splendid Suns Khaled Hosseini

The Yacoubian Building Alaa Al Aswany

The Unyielding Clamour of the

Night Neil Bissoondath

The Reluctant Fundamentalist Mohsin Hamid

Moth Smoke Mohsin Hamid

The Swallows of Kabul

Crescent Diana Abu-Jaber

Harbor Lorraine Adams

Snow Orhan Pamuk

Jumping Over Fire Nahid Rachin

**Multicultural England**

White Teeth Zaide Smith

On Beauty Zaide Smith

Small Island Andrea Levy

Londonstani Gautam Malkani

**Family**

Stone Diaries Carol Shields

Crow Lake Mary Lawson

Mama Day Gloria Naylor

The Namesake Jhumpa Lahiri

**War**

Dr. Zhivago Boris Pasternak

Birdsong Sebastian Faulks

Three Day Road Joseph Boyden

**Dystopia**

Handmaid’s Tale Margaret Atwood

The Trial Franz Kafka

The Palace of Dreams Ismail Kadare

**Myth**

Hero with A Thousand Faces Joseph Campbell

The Mists of Avalon Marian Bradley- Zimmer

Cassandra Crista Wolf

Fifth Business Robertson Davies

The Manticore Robertson Davies

World of Wonders Robertson Davies

Boewulf Seamus Heaney

The Penelopiad Margaret Atwood

**Magic Realism**

Shalimar The Clown Salman Rushdie

Love In The Time of Cholera Gabriel Garcia Marquez

One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The Cripple and his Talisman Anosh Irani

**Suggested Texts for Comparative Essays**

*This list offers some possibilities for comparative reading, but is by no means exhaustive. Please consult me or the librarian for other possibilities.*

**Victorian/Romantic**

Jane Eyre/The Wide Sargasso Sea

Return of the Native/The French Lieutenant’s Woman

**Gothic**

Frankenstein/Dracula

**War**

A Birdsong/ Three Day Road/The Wars (*WWI*)

Doctor Zhivago/War and Peace (*Russia*)

**Females in Mythology**

The Trojan Women/The Penelopiad

**Letters**

84 Charing Cross Road/Clara Callan

**Childhood**

Angela’s Ashes/Great Expectations

**The Immigrant Experience**

Tamarind Mem/If Today Be Sweet/The Inheritance of Loss/The Namesake/The Thing Around Your Neck/Unaccustomed Earth

**South Asian** *(satire)*

White Tiger/Between the Assassinations/The Crow-Eaters

**Marriage in Indian Culture**

What the Body Remembers/Desirable Daughters

**Wives in Muslim Culture**

Brick Lane/Maps for Lost Lovers/Pakistani Bride

**Female Confessionals**

Alias Grace/The Secret Scripture

**Friendship**

The Kite Runner/Of Mice and Men/The Adventures of Huck Finn

**The Canadian Family**

Crow Lake/Island Walker/The Other Side of the Bridge

**The Holocaust**

The Ash Garden/The Dark Room

**African-American Women**

Then Women of Brewster Place/The Color Purple/I Been In Sorrow’s Kitchen and Licked Out All The Pots

**Female Friendships** *(Race/Class)*

A Blade of Grass/The Space Between Us

**Female Coming of Age**

Annie John/Breath, Eyes, Memory

Crow Lake/The Other Side of the Bridge

**South Africa** *(post Apartheid)*

Disgrace/A Blade of Grass

**Slavery**

The Confessions of Nat Turner/A Chain of Voices/The Book of Negroes/The Known World

**Youth Violence**

Lord of the Flies/A High Wind in Jamaica/Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea/Tsotsi

**The Immigrant Experience**

Londonstani/White Teeth

Brick Lane/Maps for Lost Lovers

Unaccustomed Earth/The Thing Around Your Neck

**Allegory**

Siddhartha/The Cripple and his Talismen/The Alchemist

**Narrative Point of View**

The Sound and the Fury/As I Lay Dying

**Myth/Jung**

Fifth Business/The Manticore/World of Wonders

La Morte d’Arthur/The Mists of Avalon

**Morally Flawed Protagonists-Narrators**

White Tiger/The Reluctant Fundamentalist/Lolita