



MILAN KUNDERA & WORLD LITERATURE

Prof. Hana Pichova CZCH/CMPL 469 Spring 2018 TTH 11:00-12:15

This course offers a survey of one of the world's greatest living authors. Milan Kundera's philosophical novels enjoy an enormous international reputation and are devoured by undergraduates and intellectuals alike. Almost single-handedly, Milan Kundera put the Czechs on the map of world literature. His reception in his homeland, however, is not so auspicious.

We will trace Kundera's literary path from his procommunist poetic youth to his present postmodern Francophilia, and compare his works with those authors he himself considers his predecessors and his influences in European literature, such as Franz Kafka, Lawrence Sterne, Robert Musil, and Miguel Cervantes.

Readings and class discussions in English. Some readings in Czech for qualified students.

Approach: Literary Arts

Connection: Beyond the North Atlantic

Texts

Farewell Waltz

The Book of Laughter and Forgetting

The Unbearable Lightness of Being

Slowness

The Art of the Novel

Testaments Betrayed

Selections from Rabelais, Laclos, Fuentes, Cervantes, Musil, and Kafka