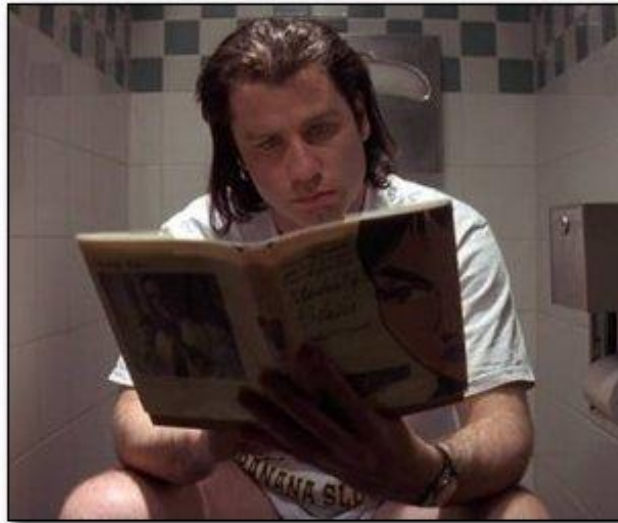


EN 4/6943: Form and Theory of Fiction
Fall 2020, TR 9:30-10:45
Professor: Peter DeGabriele

What is Fiction?



When we read fiction, we know that people aren't telling the truth, but we do not accuse them of lying. However, this relative comfort we have with the category of fiction is quite recent, and dates from the early 18th century. In particular, this concept developed alongside that most ubiquitous of literary forms: the novel. In this class, we will look at how the novel developed into the form we recognise today. We will look at novels that experiment with form, and at how formal choices relate to the way novels engage in their socio-political contexts. We will read novels from a variety of literary traditions (Europe, Africa, Latin America) as well as critical and theoretical works on the form of the novel.

Possible novelists: Austen, Flaubert, Duras, DeLillo, Coetzee, Bolaño.

Possible theorists: Ferguson, Lukacs, Jameson, Culler, Auerbach.