

Course Content for *Magical Realism and the Novel*
Deborah M. Alvarez, instructor
Fall 2022, Osher Course
September 6 through December 13

Time Preferences:

1st—10:45 to noon. T or R

2nd preference. 12:45 to 2. Monday

H. Magical Realism in Modern Novels

The course will be delivered through a syllabus that outlines each week's reading tasks and heuristic question intended to focus our discussion about the novel.

1. For each session, I will provide information about magical realism, the author and the novel through a brief lecture with additional electronic information through computer
2. Then, I intend to use an open discussion forum to discuss the lecture's elements as they are seen in the readings, guided by the posted heuristic and responsive to the group's interests.
3. Finally, I will break the whole group into smaller groups and pose an issue to resolve in respects to the novel's use of magical realism and its effects upon the story and the reader.

I will develop a syllabus for the two novels, taking six class sessions for each novel, if the class is meeting only once each week.

1st class meeting will establish the basic characteristics of Magical Realism.

Novel #1: *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende. Major Question for this novel: What is Magical Realism and what does it contribute to the story's progression?

Novel #2: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Major Question for the novel: What cultural and geographical features serve as the basis of the story, and what elements of magical serve to explore the Hispanic culture and tell a believable story?

Final class meeting will be drawing conclusions from the two readings about Magical Realism and where to find more examples of this type of story telling.