

## CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL NOVELS

**Coordinator:** Ellen Kolegar

We start in post WWI Austria with Stefan Zweig's *The Post-Office girl*. Our protagonist's dull life is suddenly transformed when she receives an unexpected telegram from her rich aunt in America. We move then to the Dominican Republic with Mario Vargas Llosa's, *The Feast of the Goat*. In alternating chapters we witness the life of Rafael Trujillo, his rise to power and the means he uses to stay there. In the other chapters we follow those plotting Trujillo's assassination. Next to Hungary under communist rule in Magda Szabo's *The Door*. An unlikely relationship develops between Magda, a writer and public figure, and her housekeeper Emerance, a person with her own sense of dignity and morality.

### Readings:

*The Post-Office Girl* by Stefan Zweig translated by Joel Rotenberg {New York Review of Books, 2008, ISBN 978-1-59017-262-9} \$14

*The Feast of the Goat* by Mario Vargas Llosa, translated by Edith Grossman {Picador, 2001 ISBN 0-312-42027-7}.

*The Door* by Magda Szabo, translated by Len Rix, {New York Review of Books, 2005 ISBN 978-1-59017-771-6}

**Ellen Kolegar** has coordinated a previous international novels course as well as many short story classes.

### \*\*\*\*\* Syllabus - A Work in Progress \*\*\*\*\*

Week 1 Zweig, pp 3-87

Week 2 Zweig, pp 87-181

Week 3 Zweig, pp 181-257

Week 4 Vargas Llosa, pp 3-72, Chs 1-5

Week 5 Vargas Llosa, pp73-144, Chs 6-9

Week 6 Vargas Llosa, pp 145-215, Chs 10-13

Week 7 Vargas Llosa, pp 216-280, Chs 14-17

Week 8 Vargas Llosa, pp 281- 345, Chs 18-21

Week 9 Vargas Llosa, pp 346-404, Chs 22-24

Week 10 Szabo, pp 1-90

Week 11 Szabo, pp 91-185

Week 12 Szabo. pp 186-262