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Textual Politics: Three authors, three novels, three countries

In this course, we will use three classic but perhaps lesser-known novels to as a gateway to discuss the politics of three very different countries and the surprisingly similar issues they grapple with. This is not a class on literary analysis, but rather a class that uses literature to explain politics and politics to explain literature. The three authors/countries we cover will be Kenzaburo Oe (Japan), U.R. Anantha Murthy (India), and Tahar Djaout (Algeria).

Book list (reading is not a requirement or prerequisite)

Kenzaburo Oe, *A Personal Matter*

U. R. Anantha Murthy, *Samskara*

Tahar Djaout, *The Last Summer of Reason*

Week One

Japan: Kenzaburo Oe and the ambient violence of social harmony

Week Two

India: U. R. Anantha Murthy and the excruciating persistence of caste

Week Three

Algeria: Tahar Djaout and the spiritual seduction of violent extremism