

# Math, Music and Identity, Spring 2015

## Paper on *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

**Due: Friday, Feb. 6, Start of Class**

*Given that we need to remember, but tend to forget, how then shall we live?*

Your assignment is to write an essay discussing how *One Hundred Years of Solitude* relates to the theme of our Montserrat cluster (see question above). If it is helpful, you may envision the theme as simply “time, memory, and identity.” What are some of the key events in the story related to memory or the loss of memory? What do they reveal about the identity of different characters? How does García Márquez play around with time in his writing style (e.g., the famous “Many years later” clause that opens the book)? How does this effect our understanding of the story of Macondo? What point do you think the author is making about memory and time? Is there a message to be discerned as to “how we should live”? Based on the book, how do you think García Márquez would respond to the question posed in the theme of our cluster?

The paper should be 3-4 double-spaced pages in length. Your goal is to write an argumentative essay that provides a detailed and thoughtful response, supported with information and quotes from the text, to the topic above. You do not have to answer every question posed above; the questions are intended to help you formulate an overall framework for your essay. Your ultimate goal is to construct a thorough and well-supported academic argument. You should make some claims and then support and develop them with thorough reasoning, evidence from the text, and/or well-accepted postulates.

You will be given two grades – one for the quality of your argument, the other for the quality of your writing (correct grammar, spelling, sentence structure, organization, etc.). Your overall grade will be the average of these two grades. Be sure to read your paper over carefully several times before turning it in. It is highly recommended that you read your paper out loud to another classmate or peer.

You do **not** need to summarize the book or any chapters from the book. You can assume that you are writing for someone who has read the book. When quoting directly from the text, please include a reference to the page using the precise format demonstrated in the example below:

“Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendia was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.” (Márquez, p. 1)

You may utilize sources other than the book, but this is not required. If you do use other sources and use quotations or other information, be sure to cite quotes as above and include a list of references at the end of your paper. You do not need to list *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in a reference section if this is your only source.