

# Deep Wells and Missing Cats

Haruki Murakami's "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle"

Spring 2026 Seminar (HUMC 394-03)



## Spring 2026 Seminar: HUMC 394-03

Dates: Alternate Thursdays at 4-5:50 p.m.  
February 12, 26, March 12, 26,  
April 9, 23 and May 7

Instructor: Professor Lisa Smith  
Department of English  
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Details: One (1) unit of credit  
Pass/fail only  
No prerequisites required.  
Open to all upper division students.



"Have you ever had that feeling—that you'd like to go to a whole different place and become a whole different self?"

— Haruki Murakami, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*

Missing cats, deep dry wells, haunted houses and mysterious women, Haruki Murakami's hypnotic and surreal magnum opus *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is many things: a mystery story, a love story, an adventure story, a bildungsroman, a story of a country's guilt; it defies genre. In the novel many things go missing: cats, wives, water, a country's past. There are many questions: What is a self? What is the nature of reality? What is a dream? What happens when serious truths are buried? In this class we will delve into the wild and strange worlds—which are at once also our world—created by the Japanese writer Haruki Murakami.

Students should be prepared to read 100 pages for each session.