ANG 1655: Travel literature in English  
Autumn 2017, Tuesdays 9-12pm, Loc. Z-210 Pavillon Roger-Gaudry

Instructor: Ali Zamanpour  
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Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

Travel literature in Transition:  
Subjectivity and the Fall of the Empire Within

The course will be covering over two centuries of travel literature. It will examine the question of ‘subjectivity’ and its representations in travel literature, taking into account the historical and epistemological shift from travel literature by professional travelers of the empire to auto-fictional travel literature during both world wars. The course continues its journey to the neocolonial period and more contemporary novels of Metropolises. During the course, we will discuss the role of travel literature (fictional and non-fictional) in the creation of the ‘central archive’ and the colonial rhetoric of empire. We will address the poetics and rhetoric of empire in the works of Kipling, Conrad as well as the postcolonial encounter and resistance to the epistemology of empire. The course also creates a platform to familiarize students with key concepts such as the notion of sameness and otherness, ‘mimicry’ and hybridity as well as deterritorialization and rhizomatic mobility in the works of Deleuze and Guattari and migrant literature. The course also addresses the notion of gendered subjectivity in the works of travelers such as Freya Stark and Lawrence and the dystopian poetics of immigrant writers such as Rawi Hage.

Evaluation

Short essay (2-3 pages): 25%
Midterm exam: 30%
Final research essay (5-6 pages): 35%
Attendance and participation: 10%

Essays: Essays must be given directly to me (in hard copy form) at the beginning of class on the due dates. Late essays will be penalized 5% for each day overdue. Extensions should be arranged at least one week in advance. More details will follow.

Attendance and participation: Attendance and participation make up a significant portion of your final grade, it is expected that you attend all classes and that you do the reading and contribute and share your ideas on the relevant topics and readings.
Class Schedule (please consult STUDIUM regularly for details)

WEEK 1 – September 5
Introduction to the course

WEEK 2 – September 12
Rudyard Kipling: *William the Conqueror*


WEEK 3 – September 19
Rudyard Kipling: *William the Conqueror* Cont’d
Kipling: “The White Man's Burden: The United States and the Philippine Islands”

WEEK 4 – September 26
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
David Spurr, *The Rhetoric of Empire*

WEEK 5 – October 3
*Heart of Darkness* cont’d.
Spivak: *Death of a Discipline*, 54-66
Edward Said: “Two visions in *Heart of Darkness*”, *Culture and Imperialism*. 19-31

WEEK 6 – October 10
Freya Starks, *The Valleys of Assassins and other Persian Travels*

WEEK 7 – October 17
Freya Starks, *The Valleys of Assassins and other Persian Travels* cont’d.

Short essay due

*STUDY BREAK* October 24

WEEK 8 – October 31
Judith Butler, The Psychic life of Power (introduction)
T. E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

WEEK 9 – November 7
Midterm exam
WEEK 11 – November 21
Naipaul, *A Bend in the River*

WEEK 12 – November 28
Naipaul, *A Bend in the River* Con’d.
“The Third Space” Interview with Homi Bhabha

WEEK 13 – December 5
Postmodern Identity, Deleuze and Guattari, Zizek, Rawi Hage, *Carnival*

Week 14 – December 12
M. Bryden: Deleuze: Travel in Literature Workshop

Week 15 – December 19
**Final research essay due**
Rawi Hage, *Carnival* Con’d

First paper 25%
3-4 double-spaced pages, 12 pt. using MLA format (please do not exceed page limit).

Second paper 35%
5-6 double-spaced pages, 12 pt. using MLA format (please do not exceed page limit); due December 19

This is a well-researched essay on a topic of your choice, related to the material of the course but relevant to your own research interests; please check your topic with the instructor and remember the guidelines above regarding the importance of argument, analysis and textual support. You should also use at least two secondary sources to develop your arguments.

**Plagiarism**
Students are warned not to plagiarize. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence and will not be tolerated. Please note that I am required to report all cases of plagiarism. Please See [http://www.integrite.umontreal.ca/reglementation/officiels.html](http://www.integrite.umontreal.ca/reglementation/officiels.html) for more on the definitions and consequences of plagiarism. If you are uncertain what plagiarism is, please arrange to meet with me.