
Sigle du cours : ANG2362

Titre du cours : Literature and Globalization

Enseignant.e : Professor Heike Härting

Courriel : heike.harting@umontreal.ca

1. Contenu et objectifs du cours :

Global Literary Ecologies : The “Global” and the “Post-Global”

Is the “global” in “globalization” the same as the “global” in the “post-global”? How has our understanding of the global changed now that we have officially moved beyond the geopolitical process called “globalization”? While many rightly associate globalization with the global export of neoliberal politics and cultural values, most scholars in the field of cultural globalization studies agree that we now live in a global “risk society” characterized by multiple post-global “metamorphoses” (Ulrich Beck). These risks refer to the uneven production and distribution of environmental pollution and global warming, to the creation of precarious living conditions for both humans and nonhumans, to the rise of new resistance movements, and to the continuous polarization of the global North and the global South. Writers, artists, and filmmakers have responded to these developments in ways that make the global legible through its local and planetary manifestations. This class examines the following questions: How do literary texts help us rethink received notions of globalization? How do competing imaginaries of the global generate a larger sense of interconnectedness and invite us to “think big” (Timothy Morton)? How do queer, racialized, and gendered narratives of globalizing experiences defamiliarize and reorient such dominant concepts of globalization as the « risk society »? How does literature help us foster more equitable and polyphonous global literary ecologies?

To find some answers to these questions, we will examine how contemporary fiction written in English searches for new genres and narrative forms through which to rethink the global in decolonial and planetary terms. This class is based on lectures, class and group discussions, which will form the basis for all class assignments. It is therefore required that students prepare for class, listen actively, and participate in class discussions.

2. Modalités d'évaluation prévues :

25% Midterm Exam

35% Final Exam

30% In-class exercises (3x10%)

10% Participation

3. Autres informations (œuvres au programme, organisation du cours, etc.) :

Secondary texts and a selection of short stories will be available on StudiUM. The following texts will be mandatory texts and available at the Librairie :

Ali, Mohamed Abdulkarim. *Angry Queer Somali Boy: A Complicated Memoir*. U of Regina P, 2019.

Lloyd, Saci. *The Carbon Diaries: 2015*. First American edition, Holiday House, 2008.

Mbue, Imbolo. *How Beautiful We Were: A Novel*. Random House, 2021.

Sinha, Indra. *Animal's People*. Simon & Schuster, 2007.

Tadjo, Véronique, and John Cullen. *In the Company of Men*. Other P, 2021.