

Université de Montréal
Département de littératures et de langues du monde
Études anglaises
ANG 6660 Literature and Globalization
Summer 2025 (May 1st to June 23rd)

Instructor: Prof. Heike Härting

Class: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Office: C-8118, Pavillon Lionel-Groulx

Office hours: Mondays from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm, or by appointment

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Course Description:

Global Literary Ecologies: The “Inhumanities” and Post-global Fiction

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. These risks, however, are fractured by the politics of race, class, gender, and sexuality and have long historical origins, variously related to the formation of what some call the Anthropocene. This class examines how “post-global fiction” engages with and challenges Western concepts and representations of the global and of globalization. How might we rethink the global in decolonial terms at both communal and planetary scales? Does post-global fiction offer new formal and poetic practices through which to address the political permutations of global modernity? If so, how and to what effect do they operate? We will address these questions through a wide range of literary and non-literary texts.

Required Texts:

Secondary texts will be added to StudiUM or onto the full syllabus at the beginning of the course.

All of the following texts can be obtained at the UdeM Bookstore/Librairie:

Abani, Chris. *Becoming Abigail*. Akashic Books, 2006.

Ghosh, Amitav. *Gun Island*. Picador, Fara, Straus and Giroux, 2019.

Kang, Han. *The Vegetarian*. Hogarth, 2015.

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

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

Evaluation:

25% In-Class Presentation

20% Critical Reflection

45% Research Paper

10% Participation