

Gabarit du cours

Sigle du cours : ANG 2362

Titre du cours : Literature and Globalization

Trimestre : Automne 2020

Titulaire du cours : Heike Härting (on Zoom and StudiUM)

Coordonnées : Jeudi, 13h00 à 16h00, heike.harting (Commence le 3 septembre 2020)

1. Objectifs et contenu du cours :

Special Subject: Globalization, Pandemics, and Literature

The term “globalization” frequently designates complex and contested processes that have restructured the ways in which we construct, narrate, and inhabit social and cultural spaces. Some consider that globalization is already behind us, while others believe that its promises have yet to be fulfilled. What many scholars agree on, however, is that our world has become more interconnected and thus smaller. In the early days of cultural globalization studies, Ulrich Beck suggested that we live in a “risk society,” where risks are distributed unevenly. Today, with the rise of global pandemics we are facing what David Chandler describes as “Anthropocene Authoritarianism,” namely a radical change in how we articulate the “normal” in our “planetary” rather than “global” age. The experience of global pandemics creates “new socio-ethical modes of normative judgement” (Chandler) and forces us to rethink how we produce what kind of knowledge to what end. Under the conditions of global pandemics, how can we mediate “differential vulnerabilities” and rethink and unlearn given privileges. The literary texts we discuss in this class engage with the various histories of how global pandemics have been narrated, represented, and instrumentalized in the past and in different cultural contexts, including narratives of the plague, the flu, the smallpox in indigenous communities, HIV/AIDS in African communities, environmentally coerced changes of bacteria and other life-forms. Through a number of different theoretical and literary texts and visual materials, this class explores how multiple cultural narratives dramatize the gap between living in an uneven “risk society” and becoming a planetary society of the Anthropocene. In this context, we will look at the ways in which contemporary fiction written in English searches for new genres, narratives, and forms to thematize the rise of new planetary collectivities/subjectivities/ontologies, strategies of planetary decolonization and thinking, the intersections between disease and climate change as literary topoi, and the rise of the post-global and post-human society (inscribed, for example, in indigenous and eco-critical science fiction).

2. Liste (provisoire) des textes à l'étude :

Fiction (TO BE FINALIZED):

Defoe, Daniel, *A Journal of the Plague Year*. 1722 (Brief excerpts on StudiUM)

Porter, Katherine Anne. “Pale Horse, Pale Rider.” 1939. (Short story on StudiUM)

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves*. Cormorant Books, 2017.

Mpe, Phaswane. *Welcome to Hillbrow*. Joburg : Kwazulu Natal Press, 2001.

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

Lai, Larissa. *The Tiger Flu*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018.

Gosh, Amitav. *Gun Island*. Penguin, 2019.

Theoretical texts will be posted on StudiUM. They **may** include texts by Ulrich Beck, David Harvey, David Arnold, Amitav Gosh, Arundhati Roy, Gayatri Spivak, Arjun Appadurai, Ursula Heise, Zygmunt Bauman, David Chandler, Giorgio Agamben, Slavoj Zizek, and Neville Hoad.

3. Organisation du cours (facultatif) :

This course introduces students to a range of critical and literary texts and concepts that help students hone their critical reading and writing skills through different pedagogical platforms. Through a range of digitally mixed assignments, this course encourages students to integrate classical and digital research skills in order to showcase their work online. For example, students will learn to assemble and keep a “digital commonplace book” and to compile a digital research poster through which to track the development of their thoughts and research in exciting and innovative ways. To this end, we will use Zoom and StudiUM, as well as Microsoft One Note (which is part of the Microsoft package to which all students have access at UdM). There will be **NO** MID- or FINAL EXAM.

4. Modalités d'évaluation prévues :

Digital Commonplace Book (12-14 organized, labeled and cross-referenced entries in at least 3 categories)	15%
Digital Poster and Presentation (selects, annotates and expands the most relevant research for the final essay).	20%
Blog entries (at least four entries on three different novels and one theoretical text/ 1 paragraph-length)	15 %
2 Quizzes	10%
Research Essay (5-7 pages)	30%
Participation	10%