



The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
Tel Aviv University

הפקולטה למדעי הרוח
ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES החוג לאנגלית ולימודים אמריקניים

Transnational Literature

Dr. Sonia Weiner

Spring 2020

Tuesday 14-16

Gilman 277

This course will consider the meaning of 'trans' in transnational literature as it explores the "constantly changing ensemble of formations-in-formation" that constitutes the transnational. Focusing on the role of the imaginary as a generative force, we will explore its role in creating possibilities and spaces for transnational literature while examining the ideologies, events and sentiments that fuel it.

Central questions will address the extent to which transnationalism is connected to the movement of people across national boundaries, to the cultures and languages that travel with them, and to the networks they form between their multiple locations. Are authors of transnational literature by default individuals who have lived in and partaken of multiple nationalities and cultures? Does transnational literature appeal to and create a transnational audience? If so, for what purpose? What is the status of 'the nation' in trans-nation-alism? By sustaining connections and creating networks across borders does transnational literature aim to decentralize the idea of the nation itself, to challenge its political, cultural and geographic authority, or to reinforce it?

In analyzing transnational novels that challenge the notion of borders thematically, we will be attentive to ways in which they often adopt innovative narrative strategies that address questions of social, geographic and mental space.

The four novels (or selections from them) assigned in this course focus on different aspects and 'regions' of the transnational: Hemispheric America and the troubled Mexican Borderlands (Luis Alberto Urrea), the Trans-and-Black-Atlantic in the multiple crossings that weave spatial connections between people and places over time (Colum McCann), the Pacific Rim and the migration of hi-tech industry, people and pollution across the pacific (Ruth Ozeki), and South-East Asian cross-cultural currents (Amitava Kumar).

Course requirements

Attendance is mandatory

Midterm = 40%

Moed A May 22

Moed B June 19

Final Paper = 60%

Submission date: July 29, 2020 (Late papers are not accepted unless approved by va'adat hora'a through the standard procedure.)

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Schedule:

March 17: Introduction:

Mapping the Territory through Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island*

Some theoretical texts:

Bhabha, Homi. "DissemiNation." *The Location of Culture*, Routledge, 1994.

Fisher Fishkin, Shelley. "Crossroads of Cultures: The Transnational Turn in American Studies." *American Quarterly*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2005, pp. 17-57.

Flick, Winifred. "A New Beginning? Transnationalisms." *New Literary History*, vol. 42, no.3, 2011, pp. 365-384.

Giles, Paul. "The Deterritorialization of American Literature." *The Global Remapping of American Literature*, Princeton University Press, 2012, pp. 1-25.

Goyal, Yogita. "The Transnational Turn." *The Cambridge Companion to Transnational American Literature*, edited by Yogita Goyal, Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp.

Jay, Paul. *Global Matters: The Transnational Turn in Literary Studies*. Cornell University Press, 2014.

Levander, Caroline. *Where is American Literature?* Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

March 24, March 31, April 5 (Sunday):

Hemispheric America and the troubled Mexican Borderlands

Luis Alberto Urrea – *Into the Beautiful North: A Novel* (2010)

Additional Readings:

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Aunt Lute Books, 1987.

Arteaga, Alfred. *Chicano Poetics: Heterotexts and Hybridities*. University of California, Berkeley, 1997.

Benito, Jesus and Ana Maria Manzananas. "Border(lands) and Border Writing: Introductory Essay." *Literature and Ethnicity in the Cultural Borderlands*, edited by Jesus Benito and Ana Maria Manzananas, Brill, 2016.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Little Brown, 2004.

(Passover Holiday April 7, 14)

April 21, May 5:
The Trans-and-Black-Atlantic
Colum McCann, *TransAtlantic: A Novel* (2013) Selections

Additional Readings:

Garden, Alison. "Introduction: Alterity, Literary Form and the Transnational Irish Imagination in the Work of Colum McCann." *Alterity, Literary Form and the Transnational Irish Imagination in the Work of Colum McCann*, Dissertation from The University of Edinburgh, 2014, pp. 9-18.

Garden, Alison. "*TransAtlantic*: Frederick Douglass, the Irish Famine and the Troubles with the Black and Green Atlantics." *Alterity, Literary Form and the Transnational Irish Imagination in the Work of Colum McCann*, Dissertation from The University of Edinburgh, 2014, pp. 223-270.

Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic*. Harvard University Press, 1993.

Mara, Miriam and Andrew. "Ireland on the Waves: Colum McCann's *TransAtlantic* as Intergenerational Female *Immram*." *Nordic Irish Studies*.

Mianowski, Marie. "The Space In-Between in Colum McCann's Novel *TransAtlantic*." *Etudes Britanniques Contemporaines*, vol. 47, 2014, pp. NA.

May 12, May 19, May 26:
The Pacific Rim
Ruth Ozeki – *A Tale for the Time Being* (2013)

Additional Readings:

Gullander-Drolet, Claire. "Transnational Form in Ruth Ozeki's *A Tale for the Time Being*." *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2018, 293-314.

Lee, Hsiu-chuan, Lee. "Sharing Worlds through Words: Minor Cosmopolitics in Ruth Ozeki's *A Tale for the Time Being*." *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature*, vol. 49, no. 1, 2018, pp. 27-52.

Omry, Keren. "Ozeki's Mirror Rooms: Posthumanism and *A Tale for the Time*." *CR: The New Centennial Review*, vol. 19, no. 2, 2019, pp. 117-137.

**June 2: Film: Lone Star (1996), directed by John Sayles -
screening and/or discussion**

**June 9, June 16, June 23:
South-East Asian Cross-Cultural Currents
Amitava Kumar - *Immigrant Montana* (2018)**

Additional Readings:

Kumar, Amitava. *Away: The Indian Writer as Expatriate*. Routledge, 2004.

Kumar, Amitava. *Bombay-London-New York*. Routledge, 2002.

The syllabus, like everything else in life, is subject to change