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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

American Migrant Fictions

0626-2354-01

Dr. Sonia Weiner

Fall 2018

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Office: Web 503

Office Hours: By Appointment

Class hours: Sunday 14:00-16:00 Gilman 220

Wednesday 14:00-16:00 Gilman 281

This course will engage with late twentieth and early twenty-first century American migrant fiction. The authors under discussion will be seen to inhabit a space located in between cultures, languages and national borders, a space characterized by fluidity, mobility and dislocation. We will explore the ways in which their nonhomogeneous, nonlinear and non-chronological experience of space-time are translated onto the form and structure of the novel. In the process of redefining what constitutes home – geographically, culturally, and linguistically – the migrant writers confront questions of memory and loss, difference and similarity, distance and proximity, translation and trans-creation, identity and home. The new perspectives created by the authors suggests their unwillingness to 'overcome' or 'resolve' the migrant duality; rather, they seek to benefit from their excess of roots, and in doing so, continue to define what it means to be 'American.'

Course requirements:

Attendance – come prepared, i.e. READ.

Required reading = novels, memoirs, stories

Recommended Reading = articles and essays

Midterm: In-class written exam 40% (Moed A: December 7; Moed B: December 28)

Final: Take-home paper 60% (Submit via Moodle by March 10, 2019)

Schedule:

1.

October 14 – NO CLASS

A make-up class will be scheduled during the semester.

2.

October 17: Introduction

Recommended Reading:

Aciman, Andre. "Forward: Permanent Transients." *Letters of Transit: Reflections on Exile, Identity, Language, and Loss*, edited by Andre Aciman, New Press, 1999, pp. 9-14.

Goyal, Yogita. "Introduction: The Transnational Turn." *The Cambridge Companion to Transnational American Literature*, Edited by Yogita Goyal, Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 1-16.

Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." *Identity, Community, Culture, Difference*. Edited by Jonathan Rutherford, Lawrence & Wishart, 1990, pp. 222-237.

Mukherjee, Bharati. "Immigrant Writing: Changing the Contours of a National Literature." *American Literary History*, vol. 20, no. 1, 2011, pp. 680-696.

Rushdie, Salman. "Imaginary Homelands." *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981-1991*, Vintage Books, 2010, pp. 9-21.

3.

October 21: **Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (1976)**

"No Name Woman," "White Tigers"

4.

October 24: **Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior***

"Shaman," "At the Western Palace"

5.

October 28

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*:

"A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe"

Recommended Reading for Kingston:

Bolaki, Stella. "'It Translated Well': The Promise and the Perils of Translation in Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*." *MELUS*, vol. 34, no. 4, 2009, pp. 39-60.

Grice, Helena. "The Woman Warrior (1976)." *Maxine Hong Kingston*. Manchester University Press, 2006, pp. 16-41.

Parrott, Jill. "Power and Discourse: Silence as Rhetorical Choice in Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*." *Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric*, vol. 30, no. 4, 2012, pp. 375-391.

Winsbro, Bonnie C. "Warring with Ghosts: Power through Individuation in Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*." *Supernatural Forces: Belief, Difference, and Power in*

Contemporary Works by Ethnic Women. The University of Massachusetts Press, 1993, pp. 154-180.

6.

October 31: **Vikram Chandra, *Red Earth and Pouring Rain*** (1995)
Framing the Story, pp. 1-64

7.

November 4: **Vikram Chandra, *Red Earth and Pouring Rain***
Translation and Transcreation, pp. 65-106

Recommended Reading for Chandra:

Salvador, Dora Sales. "Vikram Chandra's Constant Journey: Swallowing the World." *Journal of English Studies*, vol. 2, 2000, pp. 93-11.

8.

November 7: **Jhumpa Lahiri, "The Interpreter of Maladies"** (1999)
Amitava Kumar, "New York," *Bombay, London, New York* (2002)

9.

November 11: **Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** (2007)
Prologue, chapters 1 & 2: Fuku, Zafa & Oscar Cabral de Leon

10.

November 14: **Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***
Chapters 3-5: Belicia Cabral de Leon

11.

November 18: **Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***
Chapters 6-8: Endings

Recommended Reading for Diaz:

Di Iorio, Lyn. "Laughing through a Broken Mouth in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination*, Edited by Monica Hanna, Jennifer Harford Vargas & José David Saldívar, Duke University Press, 2016, pp. 69-88.

Harford Vargas, Jennifer. "Dictating a Zafa: The Power of Narrative Form as Ruin-Reading." *Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination*, Edited by Monica Hanna, Jennifer Harford Vargas & José David Saldívar, Duke University Press, 2016, pp. 201-227.

Kunsa, Ashley. "Hair, History, and Reimagining Racial Categories in Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, no. 54, no. 2, 2013, pp. 211-224.

Lauret, Maria. "'Your Own Goddamn Idiom': Junot Díaz's Translingualism in the Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao." *Studies in the Novel*, vol. 48, no. 4, 2016, pp. 494-512.

12.
November 21:
Jamaica Kincaid , “Biography of a Dress”

13.
November 25
Aleksandar Hemon, *The Lazarus Project* (2008)
See Double, Feel Double, Are Double, Chapters 1-6

14.
November 28
Aleksandar Hemon, *The Lazarus Project*
Past Exposures in the Present, Chapters 7-12

15.
December 2: **Aleksandar Hemon, *The Lazarus Project*:**
Nowhere is the World, Chapters 13-22

Recommended Reading for Hemon:

Barthes, Roland. *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Translated by Richard Howard. Paris: Fontana Paperbacks, 1984. Selections.

Roth, Walter, and Joe Kraus. *An Accidental Anarchist: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago’s Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law & Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America*. San Francisco: Rudi Publishing, 1998.

Sontag, Susan. “In Plato’s Cave.” *On Photography*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1977, pp. 3-24.

Weiner, Sonia. “Double Visions and Aesthetics of the Migratory: Aleksandar Hemon’s *Lazarus Project*.” *American Migrant Fictions: Space, Narrative, Identity*, Brill Rodopi, 2018, pp. 38-70.

16.
December 5: **Refugees**
Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Refugees*, “The Transplant”; *The Displaced*, “Introduction.”
Vu Tran, *The Displaced*, “A Refugee Again.”

Midterm: Friday December 7 (Moed B Friday December 28)

December 9: No Class, Hanukah Vacation

17.

December 12: **GB Tran, *Vietnamerica: A Family's Journey*** (2010)
1-4: Mapping the Territory

18.

December 16: **GB Tran, *Vietnamerica: A Family's Journey***
5-8: The Family Album

19.

December 19: **GB Tran, *Vietnamerica: A Family's Journey***
9-12: Fathers & Sons

Recommended Reading for GB Tran:

Hatfield, Charles. "How to Read a..." *English Language Notes*, Vol. 46, No. 2, 2008, pp. 129-149.

Jannet, Michelle. "Introduction." *My Viet: Vietnamese American literature in English, 1962-present*, edited by. Michele Janette, University of Hawaii Press, 2011, pp. IX-XXVII

Kyungah Hong, Caroline. "Disorienting the Vietnam War: GB Tran's *Vietnamerica* as Transnational and Transhistorical Graphic Memoir." *Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies* Vol. 5, 2014, pp. 11-22.

20.

December 23: **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi, *Americanah*** (2014)
Part 1 & 2: Afropolitanism

21.

December 26: **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi, *Americanah***
Part 3 & 4: Blogging

22.

December 30: **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi, *Americanah***
Part 5 & 7: The Return

Recommended Reading for Adichi

Adichi, Chimamanda Ngozi: TED Talks: "The Danger of a Single Story," "We Should All be Feminists."

Gehrmann, Susanne. "Cosmopolitanism with African Roots. Afropolitanism's Ambivalent Mobilities." *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2016, pp. 61-72. (Read till p. 66).

Iromuanya, Julie. "Are We All Feminists?: The Global Black Hair Industry and Marketplace in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah*." *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2017, pp. 163-183.

Selasi, Taiye. "Bye Bye Babar." *The LIP Magazine* (2005).

23.

January 2: **Boris Fishman, *Replacement Life* (2014)**
Weathering the Divide between Here and There

24.

January 6: **Boris Fishman, *Replacement Life***
Testimony, Truthfulness and Storytelling

25.

January 9: **Boris Fishman, *Replacement Life***
The Language of in-Between: Writing Russian(ness)

Recommended Reading for Boris Fishman:

Hirsch, Marianne. "The Generation of Postmemory." *Poetics Today* 29:1 (2008): 103-128.

Ribiero, António Sousa. "Memory, Identity, and Representation: The Limits of Theory and the Construction of Testimony," *Revista Critica de Ciências Sociais* 88 (2010): 9-21.

Wanner, Adrian. "Introduction" & "The Rise of the 'Russian Debutantes'." *Out of Russia: Fictions of a New Translingual Diaspora*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2011.

26.

January 13: **Tying Loose Ends & Overview**

The syllabus, like everything else in this world, is subject to change.