

## **World Literature and Global Storytelling, 7,5 hp**

### **(Världslitteratur och globalt berättande)**

**Teachers:** Ann-Sofie Persson ([ann-sofie.persson@liu.se](mailto:ann-sofie.persson@liu.se)) & Julia Willén ([julia.willen@liu.se](mailto:julia.willen@liu.se))

**Course coordinator & examiner:** Ann-Sofie Persson

The course explores the concept of world literature from a historical and theoretical perspective. The impact of oral storytelling on written texts and the role of translation for the dissemination of fiction is discussed. The role of translations in the transmission of literature is examined in relation to translatability, transparency, as well as linguistic and cultural uniqueness. The course actualizes perceptions of center and periphery, marginality, postcolonial criticism and decolonial thinking through its focus on literary expressions from the global South. Special emphasis is placed on power dynamics, gender, racialization, the environment, and ecology.

### **Intended learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student shall be able to:

- account for the history of world literature and literatures from the global South
- discuss and contextualize concepts of world literature and literatures from the global South
- explain basic theories concerning world literature and literatures from the global South
- problematize the division between written and oral storytelling
- discuss the role of translations in literary mediation
- employ concepts and theories from the field of world literature in the analysis of literary texts

### **Teaching and working methods**

The course offers a combination of lectures, seminars, individual assignments and group assignments. Students are expected to be well prepared for lectures and to have completed assigned preparations for seminars.

Language of instruction and examination: English

## Examination

The course uses the following forms of examination:

- active participation in seminars (1,5 credits), grading scale: EC, P/F
- individual written reflections (1 credit), grading scale: EC, P/F
- individual written assignment (4 credits), grading scale: EC

For a passing grade in the course (E), the student needs to pass the individual written assignment with at least an E and Pass on the two other forms of examination. Higher grades are given depending on the grade on the individual written assignment.

## Course outline

| Week | Date                            | Time         | Content   | Teacher | Room  |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|---------|-------|
| 34   | Tues<br>Aug<br>20 <sup>th</sup> | 1.15-<br>3pm | <b>Course introduction. World literature and literatures from the global South – historical perspectives and definitions.</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Beecroft, “World Literature without a Hyphen”<br>Casanova, “Literature as a World”<br>Miller, “Globalization and World Literature”<br>Moretti, “Conjectures on World Literature” & “More Conjectures” | ASP     | K2614 |
| 37   | Wed<br>Sep<br>11 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.15-<br>12 | <b>Reading and sensing race</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Tayeb Salih, <i>Season of Migration to the North</i><br>Nadine Gordimer, “The Smell of Death and Flowers”<br>Ngo, 2016; Smith, 2006 “Introduction”  | JW      | K2614 |
| 39   | Tues<br>Sep<br>24 <sup>th</sup> | 1.15-<br>3pm | <b>Written and oral storytelling</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Patrick Chamoiseau, <i>Solibo Magnificent</i><br>Bernabé, Chamoiseau, Confiant, <i>In Praise of Creoleness</i>   | ASP     | K2614 |
| 41   | Tues<br>Oct<br>8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1.15-<br>3pm | <b>Translation and literary mediation</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Poem or short story in English translation and original<br>Bassnett, “From Cultural Turn...”<br>Apter, “Against World literature”<br><b>Hand in Individual Reflection, UPG1</b>   | ASP     | K2614 |
| 43   | Tues<br>Oct<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> | 1.15-<br>3pm | <b>Center, periphery, marginality</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Leïla Slimani, <i>The Country of Others</i><br>Lionnet, “Universalisms and Francophonies”   | ASP     | K2614 |

|    |                                 |               |  |     |       |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------|--|-----|-------|
| 45 | Wed<br>Nov<br>6 <sup>th</sup>   | 1.15-<br>3pm  | <b>Testimonies, Latinamerican and otherwise</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Barrios de Chungara & Viezzer 1978, excerpt<br>Kaminsky 1993; Beverley 2004 excerpt.<br>Recommended: Latina Feminist Group 2002.   | JW  | K2614 |
| 47 | Tues<br>Nov<br>19 <sup>th</sup> | 1.15-<br>3pm  | <b>Environment, ecology, and the global south</b><br><i>Reading:</i><br>Amitav Ghosh, <i>The Hungry Tide</i><br>Chakrabarty, "Postcolonial Studies and the<br>Challenge of Climate Change"<br>Mufti, "Orientalism and the Institution of World<br>Literatures" | ASP | K2614 |
| 50 | Tues<br>Dec<br>10 <sup>th</sup> | 9.15-<br>12pm | <b>Individual presentation of novel</b>  | ASP | K2614 |
| 03 | Fri<br>Jan<br>17 <sup>th</sup>  | 5.00<br>pm    | <b>Hand in Individual Written Assignment, UPG<br/>2</b>  |     |       |
|    |                                 |               |  |     |       |

**Novels to choose from for Individual presentations:**

Maryse Condé, *Crossing the Mangrove*

Edwige Danticat, *Claire of the Sea Light*

Jamaica Kincaid, *The Autobiography of My Mother*

Abdulrazak Gurnah, *The Last Gift*

Nguyen Phan Que Mai, *The Mountain Sings*

Negar Djavadi, *Disoriental*

Calos Fuentes, *The Good Conscience*

Anita Nair, *Ladies Coupé*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*