**Reading Transnationally**

Instructor: Jasmina Lukic

BA, 3rd year, 2 credits, elective course

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:50 – 12:50

Location: TBA

Office hours: Mondays 13:00 – 15:00, Thursdays 11:00-13:00, and by appointment Office D205d

**Course description**

The course introduces students into basic concepts of transnational literature as a framework for interpretation of rich literary corpuses created beyond borders of national literatures. In the world characterized by globalization and intense migration processes, cultural production based upon complex intercultural and multicultural exchange, as well as all kinds of linguistic and cultural translations, requires an approach which recognizes these specificities as a particular quality. The rise of the concept of world literature has offered an answer to the new situation created by globalization, but not specific enough to address complexities of the networks of new social and interpersonal relations established in the new world of mobility that was created through globalization and the new technologies. Recognizing that in between concepts of national literature and world literature there is a need for another point of view which recognizes both local and global, transnational perspective opens a particular perspective on contemporary literary and art scene, offering new tools to address these complexities. Together with introducing students into specific problems of transnational literary studies through analyses of selected theoretical texts, the course pays particular attention to exercises in reading. In this way, students can compare their previous reading experiences with those framed by transnational perspective. Thus, they expand further their interpretative skills and competences, and learn on concrete examples how the chosen theoretical framework affects reading and interpretation of any text.

**Learning outcomes**

Students who complete the course will learn to:

* Understand the background and significance of the so-called transnational turn
* Understand specificities of transnational turn in literary studies
* Contextualize transnational turn within the larger frame of globalization processes, as well as in relation to connected framework of postcolonial theory
* Recognize specific characteristics of transnational texts
* Interpret transnational texts taking into account specific values they bring to the field of culture
* Understand relevance of transnational feminism and intersectionality
* Learn to apply transnational perspective to a variety of cultural texts, beyond literary studies
* Expand their interpretative skills through a series of exercises in reading and interpreting transnational texts

**Course requirements**

Regular attendance: 20 %

Participation in discussions: 40%

Final paper (2500 words): 40%

**Course program and basic readings**

1. **Pleasures of reading**

Exercise 1: Bring your favorite text and tell us why it is important to you

1. **Reading skills**

Jonathan Culler. 1997. “Language, meaning and interpretation.” In *Literary Theory: a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 56-69.

1. **National, transnational and world literature**

Paul Jay. 2021. “Transnationalizing Literary Studies”. In *Transnational Literature (The Basics)*. Routledge.

1. **Exercise 2**: Dubravka Ugresic. “What is European in European Literature”.
2. **Transnational turn in literary studies**

Paul Jay. 2021. “What is Transnational Literature”. In *Transnational Literature (The Basics)*. Routledge.

1. **Exercise 3:** Danilo Kis. “The Stateless One”. In *The Lute and the Scar*. Translated by  [John K Cox](https://www.bookdepository.com/author/John-K-Cox), Preface by  [Adam Thirlwell](https://www.bookdepository.com/author/Adam-Thirlwell). Dalkey Archive Press 2012.
2. **Reading across borders**

Excerpts from Gloria Anzaldua: *Borderlands*

1. **Exercise 4:** Discussion of *Borderlands*
2. **Reading transnationally: problematizing identity**

Stuart Hall. “Who Needs Identity”. In *Questions of Cultural Identity*. Edited by Stuart Hall and Paul Du Gay

1. **Exercise 5:** excerpts from Sasa Stanisic. 2021. *Where You Come From*
2. **Globalization and literature**

Excerpts from Jamil Khader. 2013. Cartographies of transnationalism in postcolonial feminisms: geography, culture, identity, politics

1. **Exercise 5 –** excerpts from Xiaolu Guo: *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*
2. **Transnational feminisms**

Transnational feminisms Roundtable Maylei Blackwell, Laura Briggs, and Mignonette Chiu

In: Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies. 36(3):1-24; University of Nebraska Press, 2015.

https://eds.s.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=1&sid=a6d153a4-d9a0-47d6-9e1c-2352f206b2a4%40redis

1. **Reading transnationally: feminist literacy**

Susan Stanford Friedman. 2001. “Locational Feminism: Gender, Cultural Geographies, and Geopolitical Literacy.” In *Feminist Locations: Global and Local, Theory and Practice*, 13–36. Edited by Marianne DeKoven. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press**.**

1. **Exercise 6 –** excerpts from Dubravka Ugresic. *The Ministry of Pain***.**
2. **Reading transnationally - intersectional perspective**

Excerpts from Ange-Marie Hancock. *The Multicultural Epistemology of Intersectionality*

[https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199370368.003.0003](https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof%3Aoso/9780199370368.003.0003)

1. **Minor literature and minor film**

Excerpts from Deleuze, Gilles and Félix Guattari. 1986 [1975]. *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*. Translated by Dana Polan. Minneapolis and London: Minnesota University Press.

1. **Aki Kaurismaki.** Fragments from *Le Havre*. 2011
2. **Minor transnationalism**

Françoise Lionnet and Shu-Mei Shih. 2005. “Introduction: Thinking through the Minor, Transnationally.” In Minor Transnationalism. Edited by Françoise Lionnet and Shu-Mei Shih. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

1. **Exercise 7 –** examples tba
2. **Transnational literature and translation**
3. **Exercise 8 –** exercise in translation
4. **Final discussion**