Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Emily Johansen
Course: 306
Title: Transnational Literature and Culture

Description: This course focuses on how the things (such as food, oil, weather) we use and experience everyday connect us with people on the other side of the world. How do these connections shift how we imagine ourselves in relation to more familiar categories such as the nation or identity? Using a variety of media (novels, films, and non-fiction) that center their representation of global life around particular commodities or climates, this class asks what it means to think transnationally. In particular, how do representations of the things we don’t usually think about challenge our viewpoints and actions?

Proposed Readings: Required texts:
Margaret Atwood: The Year of the Flood
Paolo Baciagalupi: The Windup Girl
Lauren Beukes: Moxyland
Amitav Ghosh: Sea of Poppies
Ruth Ozeki: My Year of Meats
Caryl Phillips: Cambridge

Films to be selected from the following:
The Day after Tomorrow
Mad Max: Fury Road
World War Z