Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

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

Description: Discussions about immigration often traffic in debates about the ideal solidity of borders and the present and historical autonomy of the nation-state. While not focused on immigration per se, this section of ENGL 306 considers contemporary cultural representations of the historic, present, and future fluidity of borders. These texts ask their readers or viewers to reconsider assumptions about the various social formations that can often appear to be self-evident or natural but which are dependent on a variety of social histories, particularly colonialism and capitalism. Possible texts include Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing, Amitav Ghosh’s The Sea of Poppies, Saleem Haddad’s Guapa, Nnedi Okarafor’s Lagoon, Becky Chamber’s Long Way to a Small Angry Planet. Students should anticipate reading/viewing material that they may find difficult for a variety of reasons; they are encouraged to look into these texts in advance.