Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Seul Lee  
Course: ENGL 306  
Title: Transnational Literature and Culture

Description: What does it mean to call a transnational turn in literary studies? This course focuses on the movements of the things and people that connect us transnationally. In particular, this class will examine various issues such as colonialism, imperialism, cosmopolitanism, and diaspora with regard to transnational trade of commodities, labor, and commodified people. Conversely, we will think of ourselves in terms of categories such as the nation and identity. By reading works of Sam Selvon, Michael Ondaatje, Ruth Ozeki, Mohsin Hamid, Zadie Smith, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, we will consider how these cultural products introduce us both local and global connections.

Proposed Readings: Ruth Ozeki: My Year of Meats  
Mohsin Hamid: The Reluctant Fundamentalist  
Zadie Smith: White Teeth  
Sam Selvon: The Lonely Londoners  
Michael Ondaatje — The English Patient  
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie