Syllabus
INTL 111, Introduction to International Studies, Macalester College, Fall 2015

Literature and Global Culture

Instructor: David Chioni Moore
Class: MWF 9:40-10:40 (sec 01) and 10:50-11:50 (sec 02), Carnegie 404
Office hours: Posted in advance each week, with signup sheet outside my office door, C-410
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Introduction: One of the most significant trends of the contemporary era has been “globalization”: the shrinking of distances, the greater interpenetration of all the world’s peoples, and the rise, perhaps, of a so-called global culture. Single cars embody the work of forty nations, food stores stock items from all continents, and literature and culture are no less hybrid. Yet it is too simple to say, “it’s all a big mix,” for questions of how and by who the mixing is done, are complex.

By reading important recent texts in world literature and cultural theory, this course tackles “worldly” questions: what does it mean to be from a certain place? what is a “culture” or “nation” and who are we in it? We’ll link two poles of literary response: one’s personal reading, and the text in dialogue with the world. We begin with texts narrating the various mixes (Doyle, Nair, Walcott), examine world-spanning texts of diverse encounter (Saro-Wiwa, Ghosh), examine global food and global business, and conclude with globalization narratives in futurology (Oreskes & Conway), satire (Parker & Stone), and farce (Puertolas). A powerful roster of theoretical essays by major scholars will stand in equal importance.

Course Recommended For: first-years and sophomores planning an International Studies major and/or strongly interested in inter- and trans-national issues, particularly, but not exclusively, from a literature/culture perspective.

Course Conduct: The class will be run as a seminar — that is, a joint exploration. Close reading and discussion of texts will be mixed with presentations by class members and the professor.

Assignments/Evaluation:
preliminary paper required
Roundtable attendance required
an oral presentation 8%
must-pass “global 20th century” mega-quiz 12%
first paper (5-6 pages) 15%
second paper (5-6 pages) 15%
active and insightful class participation 20%
a longer (12 page) final paper 30%

Notes: Timely class attendance is integral to the course and its grade. Inform me in advance of conflict with any religious holidays and/or any relevant disabilities; we’ll arrange acceptable alternatives and/or accommodations, and your grades will be unaffected.

Paper format: See the full roster of paper format requirements and writing advice on my I.S. faculty page. You are responsible for all format requirements. They include, but are not limited to, double-spacing, numbered pages, 1” margins all around, 12-point font, un-numbered title page with a good title, generous acknowledgements of all helpers and works used at the paper’s end. Physical
papers are due under my office door by the day and time noted, and drop 1/2 grade per day from that point.

**How to read the schedule:**
Most weeks’ readings are presented on two lines. Unless otherwise stated, the first text is the subject of class Monday and Wednesday. Have the whole text read by the start of Monday’s class. The second line, a critical reading in dialogue with the main text, is the Friday topic.

**Schedule:**
1 Sept 2  Wed: Introduction, housekeeping, aims and scope  
   *n.b.: preliminary paper due Thurs, Sept 3rd, by noon under my office door; this paper is an absolute course requirement: no exceptions or late papers accepted.*
   Fri: James Clifford, “Traveling Cultures,” and introductions

2 S7  M: Labor Day, no classes  
   W & F: Narrating the Mix: Roddy Doyle, *The Deportees*

3 S14  → film shown Sunday eve, Sept 13th, 7pm, place TBD  
   Identity & Difference: Mira Nair, *Mississippi Masala* (film)  
   F: Kwame Anthony Appiah, “African Identities”

4 S21  Performance: Derek Walcott, *Pantomime*  
   Henry Louis Gates Jr., “‘Authenticity,’ or the Lesson of Little Tree”

5 S28  Insiders/Outsiders  
   Noo Saro-Wiwa, *Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria*  
   José Limon, “Notes of a Native Anthropologist”

   W & F: attendance at International Roundtable on education  
   **Paper 1 due Thursday, October 8, by noon under my office door**

**The Macalester International Roundtable,** this year on Education in a Globalized World, is Wed-Sat, October 7-10, with a range of academic panels, workshops and events. Attendance at several sessions of your choice will be required, with details t.b.d.

7 O12  Global Business, and the megaquiz:  
   M: Joan Magretta/Victor Fung, “Fast, Global, and Entrepreneurial”  
   W: Katherine Boo, “The Best Job in Town”  
   F: → Global Mega-Quiz Friday Oct 16th in class

8 O19  Historical Complexity:  
   Amitav Ghosh, *Flood of Fire*  
   [F: no class Friday 10/23 – Fall Break]

9 O26  Ghosh, *Flood of Fire, Week 2 of 3*  
   F: in-class writing workshop

10 Nov 2  Ghosh, *Flood of Fire, Week 3 of 3*  
   F: discussion of IS major, course registration, and similar subjects
11 N9  Global Food:
M: Earle, “If You Eat Their Food …”
W: Cook et al, “Follow the Thing: Papaya”
F: Benson and Fischer, “Broccoli and Desire”

Second paper due (5-6 pp.) Thursday November 12th, by noon

12 N16  Futurology: Orestes and Conway, The Collapse of Western Civilization
F: Renan, “What is a Nation?”

[Thanksgiving is Thursday November 26 — no Wed or Fri class this week]

14 N30  Travel: Romain Puertolas, The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got
         Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe
F: Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference”

15 Dec 7 (n.b.: film shown Sunday eve, December 6, 7pm in Carnegie 404)
M: Parker and Stone, dirs., Team America World Police
    Ritual Among the Nacirema”
F: concluding class

Macalester classes end Friday, December 11. Study days 12-14. Finals, Tues-Fri, Dec 15-18.

Final course papers due Tuesday, December 15, by 1:00 pm under my office door.

Course Books (available at College Bookstore):
4. Oreskes, Naomi, and Erik M. Conway. The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the

Separately supplied or screened:
• A film, Mira Nair, dir. Mississippi Masala. Warner Brothers, 1992
• A play by Derek Walcott, “Pantomime,” 1978
• A film, Matt Parker and Trey Stone, dirs. Team America World Police. Paramount, 2004
• Rich roster of fifteen essays and articles available on Moodle (contents list follows)
• I encourage you separately to buy a good compact desk globe
Fall 2015 Essay Readings For
International Studies 111: Literature and Global Culture

1. James Clifford

2. K. Anthony Appiah


4. José Limón

5. Blommaert, Jan

6. Magretta, Joan

7. Boo, Katherine

8. Earle, Rebecca
   “‘If You Eat Their Food...’: Diets and Bodies in Early Colonial Spanish America.” The American Historical Review 115:3 (June 2010): 688-713.


11. Ernest Renan

12. Benedict Anderson

13. Arjun Appadurai

14. Ralph Linton

15. Horace Miner