Syllabus v2, as of 9/4/2025
INTL 111, Introduction to International Studies, Macalester College, Fall 2025

Literature and Global Culture

Instructor: David Chioni Moore, and preceptor Megan Rezac ’26
Class: MWF 9:40-10:40 am, Carnegie 404
Office hours: varied options with Google calendar signup, and by appointment, Carnegie 410
Contact: mooredc@macalester.edu

Introduction: A dominant feature of the 21st century has been globalization: the shrinking of distances, integration of economies, greater interpenetration of the world’s peoples, and rise of global cultures in everything from family relations to cuisine. But global life is not a shapeless mix: longstanding forces of nationality, religion, race, language, gender, history, and the environment shape the world in distinctive ways. This introductory course explores the dynamics of globalization through works of fiction, film, and essays drawn from many academic disciplines, which explore the world and our varied places in it. We begin with texts narrating migrations and mixes; examine world-spanning texts of diverse encounter; explore historical and environmental issues; and conclude with a brief return to the U.S.

Course Recommended For: first-years and sophomores contemplating 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: a joint exploration, with close reading and discussion of texts and presentations.

Assignments/Evaluation:

ungraded preliminary paper	required
must-pass “global 20th-21st century” mega-quiz	10%
first paper (5-6 pages)	15%
second paper (5-6 pages)	15%
in-person final exam on Dec 15th	15%
active and insightful class participation	20%
a longer (10-12 page) final paper	25%

Notes: Faithful and 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. In class, phones and screens off, out of sight, and out of mind. I have a general trigger warning posted in the course Moodle; read it.

Covid Note: This syllabus segment has gotten shorter for four years in a row! If you’re ill, don’t come to class, and let me know what’s up.

A.I. Statement: I’ll circulate A.I. policies with each assignment, and we’ll discuss A.I. and education in class. As you may know, I teach a course on A.I., which will inform my approach.

Paper format: See the full roster of paper format requirements and writing advice on the class Moodle. 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, works, and technologies used at the paper's end. Papers are due emailed to me in PDF form by the day and time noted, and drop 1/2 grade per day from that point.

How to read the schedule:

The date listed for each week is the Monday of our MWF class. Unless otherwise noted, complete all the reading for the day it is listed on the syllabus.

Schedule:

1 Sep 3 Wed: course introduction, aims and scope
→ opening assignment on Cook's papaya essay due emailed by 7:00 pm Wed Sept 4th
Fri: Ian Cook et al, "Follow the Thing: Papaya"

2 S8 Migrations and Identities
M: Katherine Boo, "The Best Job in Town: The Americanization of Chennai,"
W: The Book of Ruth (Hebrew Bible), and Honig, "Ruth: The Model Emigrée"
F: Barack Obama, address before the Islamic Society of Baltimore, 2016 (video)

3 S15 Narrating the Mix
M, W: Roddy Doyle, *The Deportees* (short stories)
F: conclude Doyle, and add José Limon, "Notes of a Native Anthropologist"

4 S22 Continents and Cultures
→ film shown Sunday eve Sept 21, 7pm, C-404, or view on your own
M, W: Mira Nair, dir. *Mississippi Masala* (film)
F: conclude Nair, and add Appiah, "African Identities"

5 S29 Nations, States … and Food
M: Renan, "What is a Nation?" 1882
→ Paper 1 due Tues Sept 30th, emailed by 8:00 pm
W: Anderson, "Census, Map, Museum"
F: Srinivas, "The Cosmopolitan Indian Family, 'Authentic' Food, and Cultural Utopia"

6 O6 Global Food
M: in-class writing workshop #1
W: Gottlieb, "Yelp, Mexican Restaurants, and Philadelphia's New Middle Class"
F: Vezovnik: "Potica: The Leavened Bread that Reinvented Slovenia."

7 O13 Histories, Genealogies, and Drift
MW: Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Family Papers*, week 1, to p139, end of "Vida" chapter
→ Fall Break Oct 16-19, 2025: no Friday class.

8 O20 Histories, Genealogies, and Languages
M, W: *Family Papers*, read to the end
F: Blommaert, "Language, Asylum, and the National Order"

9 O27 Africa and China
MW: Saro-Wiwa: *Black Ghosts* (first four chapters this week), 2024
→ Second paper (5-6 pp) on *Family Papers*, due Tues Oct 28, by 8:00 pm
F: writing workshop #2, based on sentences from second paper

10 N3 Mixed Week
M: Calhoun, "Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Social Imaginary"
W: discuss fall registration (Nov. 10-21, 2025), IS major, & shaping a Mac education
F: Global Mega-Quiz in class

11 N10 Saro-Wiwa, week 2 – plus messy wisdom from ChatGPT
MW: Saro-Wiwa, *Black Ghosts*, to the end of the book
F: in-class conversation with ChatGPT, details TBD

12 N17 Global Climate Future
Yoko Tawada, *Scattered All Over the Earth*, 2018

13 N24 Short week: more global wisdom from ChatGPT
M: a second conversation with ChatGPT, details TBD
→ Thanksgiving break: no Wed or Fri class this week

14 D1 Old and New Globalizations
M: Randolph Bourne, "Trans-National America," 1916
W: Alix Johnson, on data centers in Iceland, 2019
F: open/tbd

15 D8 Conclusion
M: reverse exam
W: concluding class, incl. Ralph Linton, "One Hundred Percent American," and Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"

Mac classes end Wednesday, Dec 10th, 2025. Finals period, Sat-Wed Dec 13-17

Final exam for this class: Monday Dec 15th, 8:00-10:00 a.m. Do not leave town before this exam.

Final papers due Tues, Dec 16th, by 1:00 pm. For your sake, I strongly encourage earlier submission!

Course Books Fall 2025, available at the campus bookstore:

Preference for Print: people who read in print rather than e-formats almost always grasp more fully and retain more durably. For this reason, I've specified the books to be available at the bookstore in print form. Those with a strong educational need for e-formats, though, can readily reach out to the bookstore for that; for details, chat with me first.

1. Doyle, Roddy. *The Deportees and Other Stories*. New York: Viking, 2008.
2. Stein, Sarah Abrevaya. *Family Papers: A Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century*. New York: Picador / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019.
3. Saro-Wiwa, Noo. Black Ghosts: A Journey Into the Lives of Africans in China. London: Canongate, 2023.
4. Tawada, Yoko. *Scattered All Over the Earth* (2018), transl. Margaret Mitsutani. NY: Orbit, 2020.

Separately supplied or screened:

- A film, Mira Nair, dir. *Mississippi Masala*. Warner Brothers, 1992
- Rich roster of articles available on Moodle (contents list follows)

Fall 2025 Essay Readings

International Studies 111: Literature and Global Culture

1. Cook, Ian, et al. “Follow the Thing: Papaya.” *Antipode* 36.4 (2004): 642-664.
2. Boo, Katherine. “Letter From India – The Best Job in Town: The Americanization of Chennai.” *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2004: pp. 56-69.
3. anon. The Book of Ruth, from the Hebrew Bible (i.e. the “Old Testament”)
4. Honig, Bonnie. “Ruth, the Model Emigrée,” from *Cosmopolitics*, ed. Pheng Cheah and Bruce Robbins. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1998: 192-215.
5. Obama, Barack. “Address Before the Islamic Society of Baltimore,” February 3, 2016 (43:36 video on YouTube. PDF transcript at AmericanRhetoric.com)
6. Limón, José. “Representation, Ethnicity, and the Precursory Ethnography.” In *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, ed. Richard G. Fox. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, 1991. 115-135.
7. Appiah, K. Anthony. “African Identities,” *In My Father’s House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*. NY: Oxford U.P., 1992: 173-180.
8. Renan, Ernest. “What is a Nation?” [1882], transl. Martin Thom. In *Nation and Narration*, ed. Homi K. Bhabha. NY: Routledge, 1990: 8-22.
9. Anderson, Benedict. “Census, Map, Museum,” chapter 10 of his *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso, rev. ed., 1991: 163-185.
10. Srinivas, Tulasi. “‘As Mother Made It’: The Cosmopolitan Indian Family, ‘Authentic’ Food, and the Construction of Cultural Utopia.” *International Journal of Sociology of the Family* 32.2 (Autumn 2006): 191-221.
11. Gottlieb, Dylan. “‘Dirty, Authentic . . . Delicious’: Yelp, Mexican Restaurants, and the Appetites of Philadelphia’s New Middle Class.” *Gastronomica* 15.2 (Summer 2015): 39-48.
12. Vezovnik, Andreja, and Ana Tominc. “*Potica*: The Leavened Bread that Reinvented Slovenia.” Pp. 39-50 in Atsuko Ichijo, Venetia Johannes, and Ronald Ranta, eds., *The Emergence of National Food: The Dynamics of Food and Nationalism*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019.
13. Blommaert, Jan. “Language, Asylum, and the National Order.” *Current Anthropology* 50.4 (August 2009): 415-440
14. Calhoun, Craig. “Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Social Imaginary.” *Daedalus* 137.3 (Summer 2008): 105-114
15. Bourne, Randolph. “Trans-National America,” originally in the *Atlantic Monthly*, 1916, this from his *History of a Literary Radical and Other Essays*, NY: B.W. Huebsch, 1920: 266-299.
16. Johnson, Alix. “Data Centers as Infrastructural In-Betweens: Expanding Connections and Enduring Marginalities in Iceland.” *American Ethnologist* 46.1 (Feb 2019): 75-88.
17. Linton, Ralph. “One Hundred Percent American.” *The American Mercury*, April 1937: 427-429.
18. Miner, Horace. “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.” *American Anthropologist* 58 (1956): 503-507.