

Syllabus (version 1, January 15, 2022)
INTL 111, Introduction to International Studies, Macalester College, Spring 2022
Literature and Global Culture

Instructor: Prof. David Chioni Moore, with precepting by Kaitlyn Brown '22
Class: MWF, 9:40-10:40, Carnegie 404, or [this link](#) if Zoom
Office hours: Varied options [with Google calendar signup](#), and by appointment. Carnegie 410 office if in person; maybe outdoors depending on weather; or Zoom when appropriate
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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; transnational viruses reshape global and local relations; and literature, culture, and identities are no less hybrid. Yet it's too simple to say, "it's all a big mix."

By reading important recent texts in world literature and cultural, social, and political studies, 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 response: one's personal reading, and the text in dialogue with the world. We begin with texts narrating migrations and mixes; examine world-spanning texts of diverse encounter; explore historical, pandemic, and environmental issues; and conclude with a return to the U.S. A powerful roster of theoretical essays in anthropology, data studies, food studies, and other fields will complement the longer texts.

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 — that is, a joint exploration. Close reading and discussion of texts will be mixed with presentations by class members and the professor.

Assignments/Evaluation:

ungraded preliminary paper	required
must-pass "global 20th-21st century" mega-quiz	8%
first paper (5-6 pages)	15%
second paper (5-6 pages)	15%
video presentation	12%
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. In class, phones off, out of sight, and out of mind. I have a general trigger warning posted in the course Moodle; read it.

Covid Notes: Plans under Covid can be fragile. As you know, Mac plans to begin classes remotely (via Zoom), but hopes quickly to transition to in-person. Our in-person classes will meet in Carnegie 404, though (at least for the time being) masked, with the option to unmask if speaking. As public health guidance changes, we will adjust. If you are ill or suspect so, don't come to class, and let me know what's up. If we are on Zoom, present = camera on. During the course, communicate with me about

any difficult situation you are in, whether directly or indirectly related to the pandemic. We'll adjust to make this work.

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 and works used at the paper's end. Papers are due emailed to me 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 (other than week #1) 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 Jan 21 Fri: Introduction, housekeeping, aims and scope
→ opening assignment on Cook's papaya essay due emailed by 4:00 pm Sunday Jan 23rd
- 2 J24 Migrations and Identities
M: Ian Cook, "Follow the Thing: Papaya"
W: Katherine Boo, "The Best Job in Town: The Americanization of Chennai"
F: The Book of Ruth (Hebrew Bible); Bonnie Honig, "Ruth: The Model Emigrée"; and Barack Obama, address before the Islamic Society of Baltimore, 2016 (video)
- 3 J31 Narrating the Mix
M, W: Roddy Doyle, *The Deportees* (short stories)
F: continue with Doyle, and add José Limon, "Notes of a Native Anthropologist"
- 4 F7 Cosmopolitans and Locals
→ film shown (Covid willing) Sunday eve Feb 6, 7pm, Theater 202, or screen on your own
M, W: Mira Nair, dir. *Mississippi Masala* (film)
F: Appiah, "African Identities"
- 5 F14 Nations, States, and their Creation
M: Renan, "What is a Nation?" 1882
W: Anderson, "Census, Map, Museum"
→ Paper 1 due Wednesday, Feb 16th, by 5:00 pm
F: in-class writing workshop #1
- 6 F21 Two Types of Global Subject
M: Blommaert, "Language, Asylum, and the National Order"
W: Calhoun, "Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Social Imaginary"
F: Global Mega-Quiz in class
- 7 F28 Histories, Genealogies, and Drift
M, W: Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Family Papers*, week 1 of 2, to p. 139, end of "Vida" chapter
F: Srinivas, "The Cosmopolitan Indian Family, 'Authentic' Food, and Cultural Utopia"
- 8 M7 Histories, Genealogies, and Drift II
M, W: *Family Papers*, to the end
F: Gottlieb, "Yelp, Mexican Restaurants, and Philadelphia's New Middle Class"

→ Spring Break, March 12-20: no class

- 9 M21 Pandemics, Past and Present
MWF: McMillen, *Pandemics: A Very Short Introduction*, 2016
→ Second paper (5-6 pp) on *Family Papers* due Tuesday March 22nd by 5:00 pm
- 10 M28 Mixed Week, including Global Data
M: writing workshop #2, based on sentences from second paper
W: discussion of fall registration, IS major, & shaping a Mac education
F: Alix Johnson, "Data Centers as Infrastructural In-Betweens," 2019
- 11 A4 The Global Environment
MWF: Rebecca Griggs, *Fathoms: The World in the Whale*, 2020, to p. 147
- 12 A11 The Global Environment II
M, W: Griggs, *Fathoms*, to end of book
F: Ayesha Omer, "Coal Ground," 2021
- 13 A18 Discussion of student globalization videos
MWF: five videos discussed per day
- 14 A25 More video projects
M, W: five more student video discussions each day
F: Randolph Bourne, "Trans-National America," 1916
- 15 M2 M: concluding class, incl. Ralph Linton, "One Hundred Percent American,"
and Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"

Mac classes end Monday, May 2nd, 2022. Finals period, Thurs-Mon, May 5-9

→ Final papers due Saturday, May 7th, by 1:00 pm

Course Books Spring 2022: Doyle and McMillen should be available at the campus bookstore. For unclear reasons, our bookstore could stock neither Stein nor Griggs. I hate to say it, but Amazon (with free shipping) or abebooks.com (used) is typically cheaper than the campus bookstore.

Preference for print: People who read in print rather than e-formats read more deeply, grasp more fully, and retain more durably. Unless you have a strong reason to use an e-reader, get these books in print.

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. McMillen, Christian W. *Pandemics: A Very Short Introduction*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.
4. Griggs, Rebecca. *Fathoms: The World in the Whale*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020.

Separately supplied or screened:

- A film, Mira Nair, dir. *Mississippi Masala*. Warner Brothers, 1992
- Rich roster of eighteen articles available on Moodle (contents list follows)
- About 25 video presentations on globalization by classmates, 2022

Spring 2022 Essay Readings, Version 1 of 1/15/2022

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 Emigré," 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. Blommaert, Jan. "Language, Asylum, and the National Order." *Current Anthropology* 50.4 (August 2009): 415-440
11. Calhoun, Craig. "Cosmopolitanism in the Modern Social Imaginary." *Daedalus* 137.3 (Summer 2008): 105-114.
12. 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.
13. Gottlieb, Dylan. "'Dirty, Authentic . . . Delicious': Yelp, Mexican Restaurants, and the Appetites of Philadelphia's New Middle Class." *Gastronomica* 15.2 (Summer 2015): 39-48.
14. Johnson, Alix. "Data Centers as Infrastructural In-Betweens: Expanding Connections and Enduring Marginalities in Iceland." *American Ethnologist* 46.1 (Feb 2019): 75-88.
15. Omer, Ayesha. "Coal Ground." *Cultural Studies* (2021): 1-26.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2021.1895260>
16. 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.
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.