

Summer 2021

AP/EN 4400 6.0A (SU)	Diaspora Literatures
Course Director:	Dr. Modupe Olaogun Atkinson College, 732 olaogun@yorku.ca
Time:	N/A
Delivery Format:	ONLINE – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
Description:	<p>This course interprets “diaspora” broadly and addresses some of the literary texts by migrant minorities and their descendants in Canada, Britain, the USA and the Caribbean. It considers the criteria that have been used to define diaspora; it reflects upon the different situations and dynamics that produce diasporas; and it investigates the relationship between diaspora and other trans-national phenomena, as well as between diaspora and national literatures. Using a selection of texts, which include poetry and fiction, we examine the changing contexts of migration and settlement and how these contexts shape the writers’ imagination. Diaspora literatures, by virtue of the contexts of migration and the conditions of the places of arrival, present certain recurrent themes, such as home, homelessness, separation, loss, memory, nostalgia, community formation, citizenship, identity, and so on. The course shows how the different circumstances, and the writers’ aesthetic choices, mediate specific iterations of these themes.</p> <p>We begin with theoretical materials that suggest frameworks for analysis. The goal is to enable students to gain a textured understanding of diaspora through attention to the structures of narration or poetic reflection; the linguistic, rhetorical, and figurative resources deployed by the writers; the social contexts; as well as the values and themes derived from the texts. In the process, students develop valuable analytical and critical skills that will serve them in other courses and in their careers. The teaching format is a combination of lectures and discussion. Graded class participation takes the form of contribution to the virtual forum.</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Reading response 1 (10%)

	<p>Reading response 2 (10%)</p> <p>Test 1 (20%)</p> <p>Research paper (30%)</p> <p>Test 2 (20%)</p> <p>Class participation (10%)</p>
<p>Reading List:</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING</p> <p>1) Theory/Case Studies will use the following journal articles/book chapters, electronically provided:</p> <p>a) James Clifford. "Diasporas," <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>, 9.3 (August 1994): 302-338.</p> <p>b) Vijay Mishra, "The Diasporic Imaginary," from <i>Literature of the Indian Diaspora: Theorizing the Diasporic Imaginary</i>, pp. 1 – 21.</p> <p>c) Nabuko Adachi, "Introduction: Theorizing Japanese diaspora," from <i>Japanese Diasporas: Unsung Pasts, Conflicting Presents and Uncertain Futures</i>, pp. 1 – 23.</p> <p>d) Carole Boyce Davies, "Introduction: Migratory Subjectivities: Black women's writing and the renegotiation of identities," from <i>Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject</i>.</p> <p>Imaginative Texts</p> <p>2) Marlene Nourbese Philip, <i>She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks</i>. (Weslyan U P, 2015)</p> <p>3) Pat Mora: four short poems— "Gentle Communion," "Mothers and Daughters," "La Migra," "Ode to Adobe" (supplied)</p> <p>4) Canisia Lubin: two short poems— "Voodoo Hypothesis" and "The Mongrel" (supplied)</p> <p>5) Anita Badami, <i>Can You Hear the Nightbird Call</i> (Vintage Canada, 2007)</p> <p>6) Esi Edugyan, <i>Half Blood Blues</i> (Harper Collins, 2011)</p> <p>7) Earl Lovelace, <i>The Dragon Can't Dance</i> (Faber & Faber, 1998)</p> <p>8) Shani Mootoo, <i>Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab</i> (Anchor Canada, 2015)</p> <p>9) Julie Otsuka, <i>The Buddha in the Attic</i> (First Anchor Bo</p>
<p>Open To:</p>	<p>Year 4 in Honours</p>