

Fall/Winter 2021-2022

AP/EN 4400 6.0B (Y)	Diaspora Literatures
Course Director:	Mehraneh Ebrahimi mehr@yorku.ca
Time:	Tuesday, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR – In-person
Description:	<p>“Home is the state of having escaped” — Adorno</p> <p>Who are the diaspora? With one in five Canadians born outside this country, the question of diaspora literature becomes a local and a personal one. Displacement is accompanied by a rupture, generally a violent one such as a war or revolution. Whether forced or voluntary, migration may also be instigated by economic hardship or intellectual censorship. Although the moment of trauma is in the past, the wound of dislocation remains in the family and is passed on from one generation to the next.</p> <p>This course examines questions of “home and away,” one-way-journeys, intellectuals in exile, and intergenerational traumas across different literary genres: novels, poetry, memoirs, graphic novels, and film.</p> <p>Diaspora literature may be filled with nostalgia for a lost homeland. However, a voyage can bring hope and aspirations for fresh sprouting. What are the fruits of this perilous journey?</p> <p>Diaspora is a Greek word that originally referred to the Jews of the ancient world. But we now hear of Syrian, Black Atlantic, postcolonial, Chinese, Irish, Armenian, and Persian diasporas. The course will read the literature produced by the diaspora with the aim of understanding the role they play in nation-building and identity formation both “at home” and “abroad.”</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	TBD
Reading List:	<p>No need to purchase any texts. Links will be provided on eclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maus by Art Spiegelman • Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi • The Ungrateful Refugee by Dina Nayeri • The Displaced by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Open To:	Year 4 in Honours

