

FW 2025-26

AP/EN 3000 6.0A (Y)	Course Title: Contemporary Literature and Cultural Theory
Course Director:	Lily Cho Office: TBD Ext. TBD e-mail: lilycho@yorku.ca other information: office hours, web address, etc.
Time:	Lecture day and time
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	<p>This course offers a basic introduction to some of the main authors in contemporary cultural theory and a set of conceptual tools to help students think through their own reading habits and assumptions about the artifacts that make up our culture. Course credit exclusions: GL/EN 3607 6.00, GL/LIN 3607 6.00.</p> <p>This iteration of the course will read contemporary culture and theory through an investigation into the intersection of finance and fiction with a particular emphasis on contemporary literature in postcolonial and diasporic Asia. This course will be a case study for understanding how the role of literature in finance and the culture of capitalism. We will also study a range of cultural theories in order to help us understand the longstanding relationship between fiction and finance. This course asks the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the role of Asia in the flow of global capital in the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first century, what do fictions of finance from postcolonial Asia tell us about finance? 2. How does this fiction alter our understanding of global capital? 3. How does this fiction decenter western narratives of capitalism? 4. What postcolonial and racialized histories are embedded within the financial instruments and platforms in use today? 5. How does postcolonial Asian fiction offer a way to see not only these cultural histories of financial instruments, but also how this fiction makes visible postcolonial Asian approaches to finance and global capital. <p>In grappling with these questions, this course will be particularly interested in the rise of “dupe culture” – the rapidly shifting expansion of the circulation of counterfeit luxury commodities. While Asia is widely understood as the site of production of fake luxury goods, Asian cultural theorists have argued that Asian approaches to copying such as <i>shanzai</i> push up against western ideas of authenticity in ways that problematize the very idea of the real. Along the way, we will also take up a wide range of adjacent cultural texts including cover songs, social media, news reports, legal cases, and visual art. We will also track the changes in the cultural discourse on dupe culture. In doing so, we will examine how the traffic in counterfeit luxury goods also changes</p>

	cultural discourses on authenticity and realness in other areas of contemporary culture.
Category:	A
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	First semester essay of 2000 words (25%); first seminar presentation and abstract of presentation (15%); second seminar presentation (20%); second semester essay of 2000 words (25%); participation (15%).
Reading List:	<p>Our primary texts will include:</p> <p>Aw, Tash, <i>Five Star Billionaire</i></p> <p>Chen, Kirsten, <i>Counterfeit</i></p> <p>Hamid, Mohsin, <i>How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia</i></p> <p>Kwan, Kevin, <i>Sex and Vanity</i></p> <p>We will also read selected theoretical and critical texts from:</p> <p>Marcus Boon</p> <p>Jodi Dean</p> <p>Jacques Derrida</p> <p>Laura Finch</p> <p>Mark Fisher</p> <p>Byung-Chul Han</p> <p>Leigh Claire La Berge</p> <p>Karl Marx</p> <p>Cherly Naruse</p> <p>Mary Poovey</p> <p>Edward Said</p> <p>Marc Shell</p>
Open To:	YR 3, 4