

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: World Literature: Writing from the Periphery
Status: Definitive
Code: **6117ENGL** (122175)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Filippo Menozzi	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 35
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	ASS1	Short position paper	30	
Essay	ASS2	3000 word essay	70	

Aims

1. To introduce students to the concept of 'world literature' through a selection of texts from the twentieth to the twenty-first centuries in relation to the rise and expansion of a global modernity

2. To examine on-going critical debates around key areas of research in the global humanities: a singular modernity, the politics of translation, the periphery and the

world system

3. *To compare literary and critical perspective on the political and aesthetic stakes of the concept of world literature in relation to current global affairs*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 To understand and contribute to on-going debates on the concept of world literature.
- 2 To develop independent intellectual interests in relation to the main areas of interest of this module: global modernity, the periphery, the politics of translation and the world system.
- 3 To adopt secondary material and critically engage with theoretical perspectives on world literature.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Short position paper	1	2
3000 word essay	2	3

Outline Syllabus

A Singular Modernity? (Peripheral Views)

1. *Fredric Jameson, A Singular Modernity*
2. *I, Rigoberta Menchu' / David Damrosch, What is World Literature*
3. *Ama Ata Aidoo, Anowa / Pascale Casanova, Literature as World*
4. *Saadat Hasan Manto, Bombay Stories / Walter Mignolo, The Darker Side of Western Modernity*

Globalism and Translation

5. *Ghassan Kanafani, Men in the Sun / Franco Moretti, Distant Reading*
6. *Ngugi, I Will Marry When I Want / Ngugi, The Language of African Literature*
7. *Mahasweta Devi, Imaginary Maps / Gayatri Spivak, Translator's Preface*
8. *Ousmane Sembene, God's Bits of Wood / Emily Apter, Untranslatables*

Representing the System

9. *Lu Xun, Diary of a Madman / Fredric Jameson, Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism*
10. *Alex La Guma, A Walk in the Night / WReC, Combined and Uneven Development*
11. *Arundhati Roy, Capitalism: A Ghost Story / Toni Negri and Michael Hardt, Multitude*

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, independent study

Notes

The periphery is where the future reveals itself' (JG Ballard). This module draws on recent debates on the concept of world literature and the relationships between centre and periphery in global modernity. It considers how a world-system perspective can shed light on literary representations of an uneven and unequal world. The module focuses on the key debates that animate this field of research: the concept of a singular modernity and its links with capitalism, the problem of distant vs close reading, the politics of translation, the ideology of globalism, the position of the cosmopolitan writer, and the representation of the 'unrepresentable' totality of capitalism beyond Europe and North America.