

ENG 784 Topics in Transnational Literature – “Contemporary Transnational Fiction: (Un)settling and gendering territory”

Spring 2021

Tuesday 3:00-5:40 pm

Delivery: Online, synchronic

Instructor: Kumkum Sangari

This course works with the making, binding, unsettling, gendering and temporalities of place in contemporary transnational fiction. It examines concepts of place (individual, familial, historical); processes of territorialization (conquest, trade, settlement, intermarriage), deterritorialization or delocalization (gardens), displacement (refugees); as well as political divisions (partition, internal and international borders). These are counterposed with insurgent imaginaries of nonplace, the unmaking of borders, the literal migrancy of landscapes, garbage or objects and related questions about the anthropocene. Novels will be interleaved with short fiction, documentary films, nonfiction, artwork and critical texts. This course would also be useful for students of contemporary fiction and film, British and US Multi-ethnic literature, and Women and Gender Studies.

All short readings will be on Canvas and films on library reserve. Five novels need to be purchased, and will cost from \$64 (new from Amazon) to less if used or purchased from UWM Bookstore. These are: Hoda Barakat, *The Tiller of Waters*, trans Marilyn Booth, American University of Cairo Press, 2004; Mohsin Hamid, *Exit West*, Hamish Hamilton, 2017; Marina Lewycka, *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, Penguin 2005; W.G. Sebald, *The Rings of Saturn*, trans Michael Hulse, Vintage 2002; Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, Coffee House Press, 1990.