

## HL3041: Global Cities in World Literature

This course explores dominant and emergent conceptions of world literature through the study of texts featuring global cities. Many world literature theorists celebrate transnational flows of culture, and global cities are integral to the cultural, social and capital flows that underpin globalisation. We will analyse novels, short stories, drama, and creative non-fiction from Singapore, London, Abu Dhabi and Johannesburg to examine how these flows can be imagined. We will also discuss issues of inequality, mobility, globalisation, the dominance of the English language, and narratives of development.

### Core Texts

Balli Kaur Jaswal, *Inheritance* (2013)

Isa Kamari, *Rawa* (2013)

Deepak Unnikrishnan, *Temporary People* (2017)

Alecky Blythe, *Little Revolution* (2014)

Ivan Vladislavić, *Portrait with Keys* (2006)

Warwick Research Collective, *Combined and Uneven Development: Towards a New Theory of World-Literature* (2015)

### Assessment

Preparation and participation (including group presentation) – 15%

Term Paper – 35%

Final Examination – 50%

### Lecturer

Dr. Samuel Perks; email [sperks@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:sperks@ntu.edu.sg)

### Seminar Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1*	13 <sup>th</sup> August*	Outline	
2	19 <sup>th</sup> August	World Literature and Global Cities	Damrosch, "Conclusion: World Enough and Time" in <i>What Is World Literature?</i> p.p. 281-303.  WReC, "World-Literature in the Context of Combined and Uneven Development" in <i>Combined and Uneven Development: Towards a New Theory of World-Literature</i> p.p. 1-49.  Sassen, "The Global City: Introducing a Concept", <i>The Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> 11.2, p.p. 27-43.
3	26 <sup>th</sup> August	Kaur's <i>Inheritance</i>	<i>Kaur's Inheritance</i>
4	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	World Literature and	Szeman, "Entrepreneurship as the New Common Sense" in <i>TSAQ</i> 114.3, p.p. 471-490.

		Narratives of Global Capitalism	<p>"Island Nation", islandnation.sg</p> <p>Naruse, Xiang and Thandra, "Postcolonial Capitalism", <i>Ariel</i> 49.1, p.p. 1-21.</p> <p>Rajaratnam, "Singapore: Global City". Ministry of Culture, 1972.</p>
5	9 <sup>th</sup> September	Isa's <i>Rawa</i>	Isa's <i>Rawa</i>
6	16 <sup>th</sup> September	Translation and Circulation	<p>Arac, "Anglo-Globalism?" <i>NLR</i> 16, p.p. 35-45.</p> <p>Brouillette, "Postcolonial Writers and the Global Literary Marketplace" in <i>Postcolonial Writers in the Global Literary Marketplace</i> p.p. 44-75.</p>
7	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Unnikrishnan's <i>Temporary People</i>	Unnikrishnan's <i>Temporary People</i>
8	7 <sup>th</sup> October	Form and Experimentation	<p>Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature" <i>NLR</i> 1, p.p. 54-68.</p> <p>Deckard and Knepper, "Towards a Radical World Literature: Experimental Writing in a Globalizing World", <i>Ariel</i> 47.1-2, p.p. 1-25.</p> <p>TBA: Selections from WReC, <i>Combined and Uneven Development</i> and Löwy, "The Current of Critical Irrealism".</p>
9	14 <sup>th</sup> October	Blythe's <i>Little Revolution</i>	Blythe's <i>Little Revolution</i>
10	21 <sup>st</sup> October	Metropolises After Empire	<p>Žižek, "Shoplifters of the World Unite!", <i>London Review of Books</i>, 19 August 2011, <a href="http://www.lrb.co.uk/2011/08/19/slavoj-zizek/shoplifters-of-the-world-unite">http://www.lrb.co.uk/2011/08/19/slavoj-zizek/shoplifters-of-the-world-unite</a></p> <p>Gill and De Benedictis, "Austerity Neoliberalism: A New Discursive Formation", <a href="https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/opendemocracyuk/austerity-neoliberalism-new-discursive-formation/">https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/opendemocracyuk/austerity-neoliberalism-new-discursive-formation/</a></p> <p>Brouillette, "Literature and Gentrification on Brick Lane", <i>Criticism</i> 51.3, p.p. 425-449.</p>
11*	29 <sup>th</sup> October*	Vladislavić's <i>Portrait with Keys</i>	Vladislavić's <i>Portrait with Keys</i>
12	4 <sup>th</sup> November	Afropolis and Daily Life in	Mbembe and Nuttall, "Afropolis" in <i>Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis</i> , p.p. 1-36.

		the Global City	WReC, "Ivan Vladislavić: Traversing the Uneven City" in <i>Combined and Uneven Development</i> , p.p. 143-167.
13	11 <sup>th</sup> November	Conclusion and Exam Preparation	
Examination period	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Final Examination	All of the above plus your interests

\*Please note that all of the seminars take place on Mondays from 1430 to 1730, except in weeks 1 and 11, where we convene on Tuesday instead. This is to avoid clashes with the Hari Raya and Deepavali long weekends.