

Global Literature: Our World through Memoir
CARLETON UNIVERSITY
GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
GINS 2020A Fall 2025
Mondays 2:35 pm-4:25 pm

Professor Sandra Fahy, Ph.D.

Drop in Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm Dunton Tower 21st floor office 2121 or appointment via email

Email: sandra.fahy@carleton.ca Use the phrase “BGInS 2020” in the subject line of email and address your email to Professor Fahy and your TA

Lecture Dates:

September 8th 15th 22nd 29th

October 6th {13th *THANKSGIVING NO LECTURE*; 20-24th *READING WEEK NO CLASSES*} 27th

November 3rd 10th Monday 17th Monday 24th

December Monday 1st 5th (note: the 5th is a Friday)

Teaching Assistants and Section:

When E-mailing your TA use “GINS 2020 TA A_” (fill in the _ with your section). Ensure that your email has your full name and student number in the signature line.

Preparing for our Course

All reading materials are available on Brightspace, via hyperlinks within this syllabus, or at the library. It is your responsibility to find and read the materials before each lecture and tutorial.

Introduction to Our Course

How should one go about creating a twelve-week course that covers the subject of Global Literature? Where should we begin in time and place? Empires have risen and fallen, languages have evolved and some have died; countries that once existed exist no longer. And we only have twelve weeks! I must teach you in English. Your time is limited. Perhaps you are not yet familiar with reading lengthy books. Top this all off with the fact that this is a required course for your degree! All these questions and issues come to mind even before we ask: how should one define “global literature?” How can one be sure we capture enough of Global Literature, however we define it, to ensure that you gain a thorough education on the topic?

In the process of creating the course, I asked our friend Chat GPT to create a twelve-week course on global literature. The platform populated a screed that was obvious and unimaginative. Luckily, the human mind is not an algorithm. And that is what I used to build this course, rather than Chat GPT. For fun, do that now, then compare our syllabus with it.

After much deliberation, and considering my audience of predominantly young university students, I have decided to approach the topic of Global Literatures through the genre of memoir. What this means is that I have selected several powerful memoirs (some very short, others very long, and one is technically not a memoir but a documentary made by the Chinese Communist Party, some are famous, others are unknown, some out of print) which tell us about their time and place. They also offer different points of view, showing the value of “viewpoint diversity.” Recall that not all value is the same; some things are valuable because of how starkly they divert from the norm, or the majority. Some of these memoirs tell us an unusual version of their time and place that further expand our understanding of history.

It is my hope that these memoirs will open up more of your world to you. This is a world that predated you, but nevertheless is yours. These are memoirs of people you do not know, and yet in the process of reading it is my hope that you find resonance with the authors, that you are a fellow human traveller, bound up with all of the emotions and struggles of being alive in a world that is so varied, in countries and places and politics that ask different things of you. This is a core feature of Global and International Studies.

And, memoir is a great genre because it is what the mechanical engineers might call a time travel machine, and what psychologists might call a personality dissociation – we get to dip into the body and mind of another! Magic! Yet, we must recall that the “I” is an unreliable narrator. After all, memory is fallible. And humans have ego, a deep desire to avoid public embarrassment. Will these authors really share their thoughts with us, even those that make them look bad? These memoirs reach back more than one hundred years and lead to the present day. They touch on the personal struggle amidst the broader political, economic, and geographic movements of the era.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn to think and write clearly
- Learn to articulate your thoughts with reference to the readings
- Learn how different points of view shape the record of historical events
- Learn to assess what influences different points of view

Course Objectives

- To read memoirs from around the world
- To understand the strengths and weaknesses of memoir as a genre of world literature
- To write in a manner that is clear, professional, and sophisticated

Assessment

Four assignments (written in class) and your attendance make up your score in this course. Each assignment is worth 20 points (20 X 4 = 80). There are no essays, tests or exams in this class. You will write your assignments in class without the use of a computer or phone. Students who have accommodation will have to clear things with PMC if that is their desire. The assignments are directly related to the course lecture and reading materials. To prepare for these assignments please read all required

readings, take notes during lectures and review materials prior to the assignment in class.

Attendance is worth 20 points in total (one for each class to a maximum of 24). Students who attend **all** lectures and tutorials will naturally have their extra points (1, 2, 3 or 4) added to their total grade for this course as part of a “bonus” grade.

Attendance: This is a foundational course in the Bachelor of Global and International Studies degree. Our course consists of 12 lectures and 12 tutorials, as part of your assessment you must attend at least 15 of these to pass the course. Attendance will be taken at each meeting. Where students fall just short of this expectation, exceptions will be considered.

Can you Get Bonus Points? YES! There will be a chance to earn bonus points for this class by attending lectures for invited speakers on Carleton University campus. One caveat is that you must STAY for the entire lecture to earn bonus points. An announcement will be sent to your email regarding this via our Brightspace page.

Missed Assignments: If you miss an assignment, you are granted the opportunity to sit the assignment on the following Monday at 7am at Dunton Tower 21st floor. There are no exceptions to this accommodation. Students who miss an assignment will lose one letter grade so an A becomes a B and so on.

Grade Appeals: If you wish to appeal your grade, do so in a timely fashion. Prior to requesting your appeal, please ensure that you have identified the grading error on the assignment and notify me and the TA. If a mistake has been made, we will correct it asap.

Approval of final grades: The instructor determines your grade in the course which is subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Grading:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Lecture Schedule

Class One September 8th

How should a professor create a Global Literatures Course? How should one assess students in a Global Literature Course? What kind of learning environment should we create? Let's explore the process together! Group tasks assigned and discussion heard. Introduction to the syllabus and assignments. Points of View: Atomic Bomb. Short memoirs.

Yoshie Oka, "First to report the atomic bombing" in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: That we Never Forget, Soka Gakki 2017 (on Brightspace)

Paul Olum, "Hiroshima: Memoir of a Bomb Maker ... "The Gadget"" <https://www.hnn.us/article/hiroshima-memoir-of-a-bomb-maker-the-gadget>

Class Two: (short memoir) September 15th

(video documentary and short memoir)

Points of View: What is happening in Xinjiang?

The War in the Shadows: Challenges of Fighting Terrorism in Xinjiang on YouTube at CGTN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqlzunwilGM> last accessed August 28 2024

Tahir Hamut Izgil, "One by One, my friends were sent to the camps"

<https://www.theatlantic.com/the-uyghur-chronicles/>

Class Three: September 22nd

In class assignment 20% (one hour granted for assignment, students with time accommodations to be given full two hours as PMC recommendation). No computer or phone use. TAs to attend and grade assignments in class with professor. TAs to use tutorial time to review assignment with students as requested by students.

Class Four: (full book) September 29th

Points of View & Viewpoint Diversity: How many North Koreas?

Black Girl from Pyongyang (on brightspace)

Class Five: (full book) October 6th

Tears of My Soul (on brightspace)

{13th THANKSGIVING NO LECTURE; 20-24th READING WEEK NO CLASSES}

Class Six: (full book) October 27th

In class assignment 20% (one hour granted for assignment, students with time accommodations to be given full two hours as PMC recommendation). No computer or phone use. TAs to attend and grade assignments in class with professor. TAs to use tutorial time to review assignment with students as requested by students.

In Order to Live (on brightspace)

Class Seven: (full book) November 3rd

Points of View: Political systems Communism

Black On Red: 44 Years in The USSR as a Black Engineer (on brightspace)

Class Eight: (full book) November 10th

Points of View: Political systems Communism

Charles Robert Jenkins, *The Reluctant Communist: My Desertion, Court-Martial, and Forty-Year Imprisonment in North Korea* (reading sections to be added)

Class Nine: November 17th

Third In class assignment 20% (one hour granted for assignment, students with time accommodations to be given full two hours as PMC recommendation). No computer or phone use. TAs to attend and grade assignments in class with professor. TAs to use tutorial time to review assignment with students as requested by students.

Class Ten: November 24th

Ireland, China, Ukraine: *Surviving Famine*

Famine Diary: Journey to a New World, by James Mangan (on brightspace)

Grass Soup, Zhang, Xianliang (full book) (on brightspace)

Ivan Brynza "I Was Dying of Hunger near Fields of Grain" (on brightspace)

USA: Great Depression

A Childhood: The Biography of a Place, Harry Crews (reading sections to be added)

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, James Agee (photograph book)

Class Eleven: December Monday 1st

Holocaust Different Points of View

The Commandant: a monologue, The Rudolf Hoess text edited by Jurg Amann,

Overlook Duckworth, New York 2012

This way for the Gas Ladies and Gentlemen, Tadeusz Borowski

<https://www.pelister.org/courses/topics/borowski/this-way-for-gas.pdf>

The Vanishing Places of the USA

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by JD Vance

Another Appalachia: Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place, Neema Avashia

Class Twelve: (last class) December Friday 5th

Final In class assignment 20% (one hour granted for assignment, students with time accommodations to be given full two hours as PMC recommendation). No computer or phone use. TAs to attend and grade assignments in class with professor. TAs to use tutorial time to review assignment with students as requested by students.

Important Information

Make-up Assignment

Students who miss an assignment will be accommodated to write the assignment on the following Monday at 7am on the 21st floor of Dunton Tower. Once a week has passed since the original date of the assignment there will be no further accommodation made. Contact the professor for more information. There are no exceptions to this accommodation.

Carleton University Freedom of Speech Policy

“As an institution of higher learning anchored in the ideals of open inquiry and debate, the University’s students, staff, and faculty have the freedom of speech to articulate their views. Pursuant to the Carleton University Act, the essential purpose of the University is to engage in the pursuit of the advancement of learning, the dissemination of knowledge, and the intellectual development and betterment of its community. To achieve this purpose, members of the University have freedom of speech, which is defined as the right to examine, question, investigate, speculate, comment and criticize except insofar as limitations are necessary by law or the functioning of the University. The purpose of the University also depends upon an environment of respect and tolerance. Every member needs to be able to learn, teach, live and work free from harassment and discrimination... Disagreements and dissenting views make for a vibrant academic culture. The University strives to find a balance between allowing for critical views to be expressed civilly on campus and not obstructing the freedom of others to communicate their views. In exercising free speech, staff, students and faculty are encouraged to consider the value of mutual respect. Informed, thoughtful and respectful argument, even when disagreement is profound, benefits the University community and fosters its essential purpose.”

The full document can be accessed here: <https://carleton.ca/equity/policies-procedures/>

Plagiarism

If there is a question of academic dishonesty, the student will be invited to my office where they will be interviewed about the assignment. The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a

violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Course Copyright

“My lectures and course materials (including all PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and similar materials) are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property of all course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent. You may not make recordings of lectures without my written consent.”

Helpful Information

Carleton University has a duty to accommodate students with institutional needs. Please see information on the following page. <https://carleton.ca/pmc/faculty-and-instructors/institutional-obligations/> Their website states, “Students with disabilities are responsible for identifying their needs for disability-related accommodation to the Paul Menton Centre by booking an intake appointment with a PMC Coordinator, and bringing appropriate documentation to the first meeting.” Please ensure that you do this, so that you can have the best experience of accommodation at Carleton. There are deadlines for this process. See Carleton dates and deadlines for specific dates.” (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/>)

Carleton University is your intellectual home, and for you to make the most of your experience here be sure to reach out and utilize all the services this wonderful university has to offer. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows: Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Links for resources

Mental Health: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-mental-health/>

Substance Use: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/safe-substance-use/>

Care and Support: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-care-and-support/>

Rights & Responsibilities: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/>

Emergency Fund: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-emergency-fund/>