

# Preliminary Course Outline

Franny Nudelman

ENGL 2906/Winter 2019

## **CULTURE AND CRISIS: POVERTY, MIGRATION, CLIMATE**

In this course we will consider writers who respond to the urgent crises of contemporary life, among them climate change, global poverty, forced migration, and war. These authors narrate massive changes in technology, climate, and political organization from the vantage point of individuals who are affected by such transformations. In particular, all the texts we will read narrate the dislocations, voluntary and involuntary, that result from rapid change. Our focus will be contemporary literature, but we will also consider photography and film as contemporary writers and visual artists experiment with hybrid genres. Throughout, we will consider the role of literature and culture in grappling with social crises, shaping our knowledge of, and responses to, the world around us.

***Please be aware that readings for this course have not been finalized.*** Texts for the class may include: Lynsey Addario, *It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War* (2015); Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (2012); Teju Cole, *Open City*, 2012; Dave Eggers, *What is the What* (2006); Mohsin Hamid, *Exit West* (2017); Ben Lerner, *10:04* (2014); Claudia Rankine, *Citizen* (2014).