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201J St. Patrick Building
office hours: Mondays 12:00-2:00 pm or by appt.

ENGL 5004F/CLMD 6102F, Fall 2018
DIASPORA THEORY
Mondays 2:35-5:25, 201D St. Pat's

More people than ever before seem to imagine routinely the possibility that they or their children will live and work in places other than where they were born: this is the wellspring of the increased rates of migration at every level of social, national and global life... [W]e may speak of diasporas of hope, diasporas of terror, and diasporas of despair. But in every case, these diasporas bring the force of the imagination, as both memory and desire, into the lives of many ordinary people, into mythographies different from the disciplines of myth and ritual of the classic sort.

Arjun Appadurai, *Modernity at Large*

Course Description:

Diaspora is an ancient term that has gained new currency in our contemporary moment. Why has diaspora become ubiquitous across the disciplines, emerging as a central category of analysis for scholars in both the humanities and the social sciences? How does diaspora theory intersect with the study of transnationalism, globalization, postcolonialism, world literature, world art history etc.? What is the relationship between "classic" diasporas such as the Jewish and Armenian diasporas and other traumatic histories of dislocation that are increasingly being interpreted through the lens of diaspora theory? What do we stand to gain from the broader application of the term? What risks does the proliferation of the term entail?

This course traces the emergence of diaspora theory from the early 1990s through to the present. Beginning with seminal articulations by James Clifford, Paul Gilroy and others, the course then surveys a series of new directions in diaspora thought. Taking Jewish and Black historical experiences of displacement as our starting points, we will consider a variety of approaches (comparative diasporas, postcolonial diasporas) as well as modalities (time and memory, space and place, indigeneity and diaspora). Drawn from a range of disciplines, our readings will illustrate how and why diaspora has become a significant focus within area studies, postcolonial studies, cultural studies and ethnic studies. Alongside the theoretical readings, we will consider memoirs, poetry, film, and visual art that perform their own theoretical work. Examining tensions between positivistic and cultural approaches as well as between high theory and creative genres, our particular focus will be on the expressive forms and aesthetic modes that have been inspired by the lived experience of diaspora.

In the course's final sessions, students will have the opportunity to explore the implications of diaspora theory for the particular genres, media, and cultural histories that drive their own research interests.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

15%	<p>attendance and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this course is a reading intensive seminar; regular attendance and active participation are vital to students' success in the course • the attendance and participation grade will reflect consistent attendance, active involvement in class discussion, and informed comments about the issues raised by the readings that help to advance the discussion
15%	<p>1 session as discussion leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each student will sign up for 1 date on which to serve as a discussion leader • in advance of the session, the discussion leaders (if there is more than 1) will coordinate with each other regarding how to divide up the readings • at the beginning of the session, each discussion leader will circulate to the class 3-4 questions that s/he feels will help the other students to identify and evaluate the central arguments and insights of the readings for that week • the discussion leader will then offer a 10-minute summary of the reading(s), pose his/her questions to the class and lead a discussion
30%	<p>conference-paper style presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conference papers are preliminary versions of the final paper that will allow students to test out ideas and receive feedback from the class • the papers should be 15 minutes long (roughly 7 double-spaced pages) • paper titles and abstract (250 words) are due via email by Monday, Nov. 19 • once I have received the abstracts, I will organize the conference papers into panels to be held during class on December 3 and December 7 • please provide me with a hard copy of your presentation on the day of your panel*
40%	<p>final paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the final paper is an opportunity to explore the implications of diaspora theory for the specific genres, media, and cultural histories that drive your particular research interests • the paper should engage in some form with the diaspora theory that we have studied, testing the theory against particular case studies and cultural contexts; please feel free to discuss potential paper topics and approaches with me, either during office hours, by appointment, or via email • 15 pages, 12-point font, double spaced due on Friday, December 14 in my ICSLAC mailbox • late papers will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day late including weekends (i.e. from B+ to B, etc.); extensions will be granted only in cases of serious illness (with doctor's note), bereavement, or religious observance

Readings:

All course readings will be available in electronic format via CULearn and the Ares Course Reserves system (<http://libares01.carleton.ca/>) or the library catalogue. *If you find that a required reading is not available for a given week, please notify me immediately by email.* Students are expected to come to class having prepared all of the required readings for a particular week.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and all cases will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty. Plagiarism includes copying from a book, article, or another student, downloading ideas or material from the Internet, or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own. See the statement on Instructional Offences in the Graduate Calendar.

Copyright:

I would like to remind you that my lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property in the course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent.

Requests for Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor 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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Sept 10: class cancelled

Week 1 (Sept 17): Introduction

Week 2 (Sept 24): Definitions and Taxonomies

- William Safran, "Diasporas in Modern Societies." *Diaspora* 1.1(1991): 83-99.
- James Clifford, "Diasporas." *Cultural Anthropology* 9.3(Aug. 1994): 302-344.
- Rogers Brubaker, "The 'Diaspora' Diaspora." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 28-1(Jan. 2005): 1-19.
- Khachig Tölölyan, "The Contemporary Discourse of Diaspora Studies." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 27.3(2007): 647-655.
- Lily Cho, "The Turn to Diaspora." *Topia* 17(Spring 2007): 11-30.

Week 3 (Oct 1): Decentering the Jewish Diaspora

- Daniel and Jonathan Boyarin, "Diaspora: Generation and the Ground of Jewish Identity." *Critical Inquiry* 19.4(1993): 693-725. (focus on sections 4 and 5 and especially from page 711)
- Jonathan Ray, "New Approaches to the Jewish Diaspora: The Sephardim as a Sub-Ethnic Group." *Jewish Social Studies* 15.1(Fall 2008): 10-31.
- Rebecca Kobrin, "Rewriting the Diaspora: Images of Eastern Europe in the Bialystock Landsmanschaft Press, 1921-45." *Jewish Social Studies* 12.3(Spring 2006): 1-38.
- memoir: Eva Hoffman, "The New Nomads." *Yale Review* 86.4(Oct 1998): 43-58.
- photography: Frédéric Brenner, *Diaspora: Homelands in Exile* (2003)
<http://www.fredericbrenner.com/diaspora/>
Rafael Goldchain, *Familial Ground* (2002)
<http://v1.zonezero.com/exposiciones/fotografos/goldchain/>
<https://rafael-goldchain.squarespace.com/i-am-my-family/>

Week 4 (Oct 15): The Black Atlantic

- Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*. Ed. Jonathan Rutherford. London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1990. 222-37.
- Paul Gilroy, "The Black Atlantic as a Counterculture of Modernity." *Theorizing Diaspora*. Ed. Jana Evans Braziel and Anita Mannur. Malden: Blackwell, 2003. 49-80.
- Brent Hayes Edwards, "The Uses of Diaspora." *Social Text* 66 19.1(Spring 2001): 45-73.
- memoir: Dionne Brand, *A Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2001. 3-6. 19-29.
- screening: *12 Years a Slave* (dir. Steve McQueen, 2013, clip)
- photography: Armet Francis, *The Black Triangle* (1985)
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/s/armet-francis/>

Fall Break (Oct. 22)

Week 5 (Oct 29): Imperial and Postcolonial Diasporas

- Ralph Crane and Radhika Mohanram, "Introduction." *Imperialism as Diaspora: Race, Sexuality and History in Anglo-India*. Liverpool: Liverpool UP, 2013. 1-21.
- H. Adlai Murdoch, "Introduction: The Caribbean Diaspora and the Metropolises." *Creolizing the Metropole: Migrant Caribbean Identities in Literature and Film*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2012. 3-17.
- David Chariandy, "Postcolonial Diasporas." *Postcolonial Text* 2.1(2006).
<http://www.postcolonial.org/index.php/pct/article/viewArticle/440/839>
- poetry: Louise Bennett, "Colonisation in Reverse." *The Penguin Book of Caribbean Verse in English*. Ed. Paul Burnett. London: Penguin, 2005. 32-33.
- essay: George Lamming, "The Occasion for Speaking." *The Pleasures of Exile*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1992. 23-42.

Week 6 (Nov 5): Time, Memory, Genealogy

- Ranajit Guha, "The Migrant's Time." *Postcolonial Studies* 1.2(1998): 155-60.
- Marianne Hirsch and Nancy K. Miller, "Introduction." *Rites of Return: Diaspora Poetics and the Politics of Memory*. New York: Columbia UP, 2011. 1-20.
- Alondra Nelson, "The Factness of Diaspora: The Social Sources of Genetic Genealogy." In Hirsch and Miller, *Rites of Return* 23-39.
- travel memoir/ethnography: Amitav Ghosh, "Prologue." *In an Antique Land*. New York: Vintage, 1994. 13-19.
- memoir: Saidiya Hartman, "Prologue: The Path of Strangers." *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. New York: Farrar, Straus&Giroux, 2008. 3-18.
- screening: Keith Piper, artist commentary on *Ghosting the Archive* (2005)
<http://www.keithpiper.info/ghostingthearchive.html>

Week 7 (Nov 12): Space and Place

- Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, "Exile and Expulsion in Jewish History." *Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardic World: 1391-1648*. Ed. Benjamin R. Gampel. New York: Columbia UP, 1997. 3-22.
- Dalia Kandiyoti, "Reformulating Diaspora Spatialities." *Migrant Sites: America, Place, and Diaspora Literatures*. Hanover: Dartmouth Press, 2009. 25-45.
- Sarah Phillips Casteel, "Introduction: Landscaping in the Diaspora." *Second Arrivals: Landscape and Belonging in Contemporary Writing of the Americas*. Charlottesville: UP of Virginia, 2007. 1-17.
- Esra Akcan, "A Building With Many Speakers: Turkish 'Guest Workers' and Alvaro Siza's Bonjour Tristesse Housing for IBA-Berlin." *The Migrant's Time: Rethinking Art History and Diaspora*. Ed. Saloni Mathur. New Haven: Yale UP, 2011. 174-95.

- installation art: Jin-me Yoon, *Touring Home from Away* (1998-99) <http://cielvariable.ca/en/issues/ciel-variable-55-boundaries/jin-me-yoon-touring-home-from-away-shauna-mccabe-fissures/>
- memoir: André Aciman, "Shadow Cities." *The New York Review of Books*. Dec. 18, 1997. <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/1997/dec/18/shadow-cities/>

Week 8 (Nov 19): Indigeneity and Diaspora

N.B. conference paper titles and 250-word abstracts due today

- Daniel Coleman, "Indigenous Place and Diaspora Space: Of Literalism and Abstraction." *Settler Colonial Studies* 6.1(2016): 61-76.
- Celia Haig-Brown, "Decolonizing Diaspora." *Decolonizing Philosophies of Education*. Ed. Ali A. Abdi. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2012. 73-90.
- Shona N. Jackson, "Introduction." *Creole Indigeneity: Between Myth and Nation in the Caribbean*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2012. 1-39.
- poetry: Jeanette Armstrong, "Blood." *Breath Tracks*. Stratford, ON: Williams-Wallace/Theytus Books, 1991, 16; Dionne Brand, "V v." *Land to Light On*. Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1997, 45.
- photography: Jin-me Yoon, *A Group of Sixty-Seven* (1996) http://ccca.concordia.ca/artists/work_detail.html?languagePref=fr&mkey=15775&title=Group+of+Sixty-Seven%2C+%3Ci%3Edetail+1+of+2%3C%2Fi%3E&artist=Jin-me+Yoon&link_id=1835
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDd1abJUyA4>

Week 9 (Nov 26): The Aesthetics of Diaspora

- Philip V. Bohlman, "Diaspora." *World Music: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. 111-129.
- Kobena Mercer, "Diaspora Culture and the Dialogic Imagination: The Aesthetics of Black Independent Film in Britain." *Blackframes: Critical Perspectives on Black Independent Cinema*. Ed. M. Cham and C. Watkins. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1988. 50-61.
- Samantha Pinto, "Introduction: The Feminist Disorder of Diaspora." *Difficult Diasporas: The Transnational Feminist Aesthetic of the Black Atlantic*. New York: NYU Press, 2013. 1-17.
- Aamir R. Mufti, "Zarina Hashmi and the Arts of Dispossession." In *The Migrant's Time: Rethinking Art History and Diaspora*. Ed. Saloni Mathur. New Haven: Yale UP, 2011. 174-95.
- artist's manifesto: R.B. Kitaj, "First Diasporist Manifesto." *Diaspora and Visual Culture: Representing Africans and Jews*. Ed. Nicholas Mirzoeff. London: Routledge, 2000. 34-42.
- screening: Isaac Julien, *Territories* (1984) <https://www.isaacjulien.com/projects/territories/>

Week 10 (Dec 3): Mini Conference I

- presentation of student conference papers

Week 11 (Dec 7—Friday follows a Monday schedule): Mini-Conference II

- presentation of student conference papers