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| Course | CDNS 4510 Quebec Studies |
| Instructor | Catherine Khordoc |
| Term | Winter 2021 |
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| Office Location | DT 1623 |
| Office Hours | Online by appointment |

COURSE DESCRIPTION / INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Migrant and transcultural writing in Québec

In this course, we'll read contemporary works of Québécois literature that are considered to be examples of 'migrant writing', or 'écriture migrante', a term coined in the 1980s by Haitian-Québécois writer Robert Berrouët-Oriol. Since then, this body of literature has attracted significant critical interest as more and more writers who have immigrated to Québec weave into their writing themes relating to immigration, exile, belonging and identity. We'll examine how some of these issues are reinforced in the writing itself through the use of narrative techniques, intertextuality, plurilingualism, historical discourse, and different forms of story-telling. As we read these works of literature, which will include prose and theatre, we'll also consider what the label 'migrant writing' has achieved in terms of calling attention to these writers and their works, but also how it is limiting. While questioning the term 'écriture migrante', we'll look at other terms, such as 'transcultural' and 'transnational' writing, to consider if they might be more appropriate and more inclusive of other works of literature such as Indigenous writing. More importantly, we'll discuss how this body of writing contests and modifies what is meant by "Québécois literature". By extension, how does the writing of immigrants from Lebanon, Haiti or Vietnam (to name a few examples), contribute to the shaping of Québec's society and culture, and to shifting what the phrase "Québec culture" suggests about its collective imaginary?

The readings will be available in English translation, but students can choose to read the books in the original French if they wish.

A background in literary studies (in English or in French) would be useful but is not required. However, students should be prepared to read several works of literature as well as some secondary, critical readings.

At this stage (July 2020), it is uncertain whether we will be able to hold classes on campus in the Winter term.

EVALUATION

Assessment will be a combination reading responses, discussions, seminar presentations, and essay. More details to follow.

TEXT

The works we'll read will include *The Wanderer*, by Régine Robin; *Passages* by Emile Ollivier; *Ru* by Kim Thuy; *Incendies* by Wajdi Mouawad and *Kuessipan* by Naomi Fontaine. Final reading list will be determined during the Fall semester.