

# LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND TERRITORY: ASPECTS OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE IN FRENCH

GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF ACADEMIC NETWORK  
(GIAN) 2017

**6-16  
DECEMBER  
2017**



# OVERVIEW

This course focuses on the study of literary production that transcends national boundaries. For the discipline of French or Francophone literatures, this involves the study of contemporary French-language-coded literature produced by migrants, or by French writers living outside France or in non-Francophone countries around the world, and the modes of circulation of such literary forms across the globe.

In the context of production and circulation of literary works, contemporary criticism is re-examining the established boundaries of literature by going beyond national territorial limits. It is redrawing the limits of this literary universe, “a universe that is at the same time invisible and concrete with vast terrains where literature is being produced and where critics debate the means and specific directions for the elaboration of literary art.” (CASANOVA, 1999, p. 20) This culturally and linguistically dominant “World Republic of Letters” is reshaping the political, economic and linguistic frontiers of nations, testified by the proliferation of minority, diasporic and borderless literatures. Its subjects of study coincide with those of post-colonial studies: “When the transmission of « national » traditions was once the major theme of a world literature, perhaps we can now suggest that transnational histories of migrants, the colonized or political refugees – these border and frontier conditions – may be the terrains of World Literature” (BHABHA, 1992, p. 146).

A study of these transnational literary spaces will require a framework that involves hybridizations of disciplines: whether it is geo-criticism (WESTPHAL, 2007) or the sociology of circulation of literary works and ideas worldwide (BOURDIEU, 2002; SAPIRO, 2008), the sociolinguistics of contacts between languages or even the history and anthropology of cultural transfers (ESPAGNE, 1999).

In the light of such redefined links between literature, language and territories, this course proposes to study the works of contemporary writers writing in French, whether immigrants on French soil or writers of French origin living abroad, or writers of the French diaspora, writers in exile, expatriates or those living at the frontiers.



# OBJECTIVES

- Update on the main contemporary concepts of literary criticism for French language coded literature (« World literature», « transnational literature » « littérature francophone », "auto fiction", "migration literature")
- Practice of pluridisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity and hybridization of disciplines for the study of literary corpuses : sociolinguistics, geocriticism, sociology of production and reception, anthropology, geopolitics and sociology of migrations
- Analysis of an ultra-contemporary corpus of French writings in literature and French thought, partially on basis of first hand interviews with authors.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND ?

M.A, M.Phil and Ph.D Students with a good knowledge of the French language.

## FACULTY



### Fabienne DUMONTET

Ph. D. in Renaissance French literature

Associate Professor in French as a Foreign language  
ENS de Lyon, France

Member of the Center for studies and research on  
contemporary creation (CERCC, Lyon, France)

Book reviewer for the French literary supplement of the  
newspaper *Le Monde*, *Le Monde des Livres*, since 1999

# SCHEDULE

Lectures & Tutorials: 3 lecture hours per day for 10 days

**Day 1, December the 6<sup>th</sup>** . Introduction (1) . Questioning “nation” as a framework for the production of literary canon.

**Day 2, December the 7<sup>th</sup>**. Introduction (2). Debating contemporary views on the literary universe.

**Day 3, December the 8<sup>th</sup>**. Occupying a/many place(s) in the francophone literary universe. Trajectories of writers: “French” “Francophone”, “writing in the French language”?

**Day 4, December the 9<sup>th</sup> and Day 5, December the 11<sup>th</sup>**. (lecture + Tutorial). Processes of legitimisation and instances of consecration. Extracts from literary works, critical works and correspondences relating to processes of classification, allocation, identity and legitimation within the francophone space.

**Day 6, December the 12<sup>th</sup>**. Writing France from the outside. The immigrant writer, travelling writer, cosmopolitan or expatriate writer (study of a corpus of works from French writers writing about Japan and Japanese writers residing in France writing about the Fukushima disaster, 2011)

**Day 7, December the 13<sup>th</sup> and Day 8, December the 14<sup>th</sup>**. (lecture + Tutorial). Writing about the outside, from the French language. France and the French language as territory and language of exile.

**Day 9, December the 15<sup>th</sup>**. Literary matrices and territories: rewritings, displacements, de-territorialisations/ reterritorialisations?

**Day 10, December the 16<sup>th</sup>**. Writing a translational language (Tutorial 1 hour) + Examination (2 hours)

Date of Examination : 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2017

## PREREGISTRATION AND FEES

Prior registration is mandatory for ALL students as per the procedure provided on the GIAN web portal

Fees for the JNU MA students : Free of cost

Fees for JNU M.Phil/Ph.D students : Rs. 1000/-.

Fees for students of other recognised institutions : Rs 1000

Fees for faculty colleagues : Rs. 2000/-.

Fees for private industry colleagues : Rs. 5000/-.