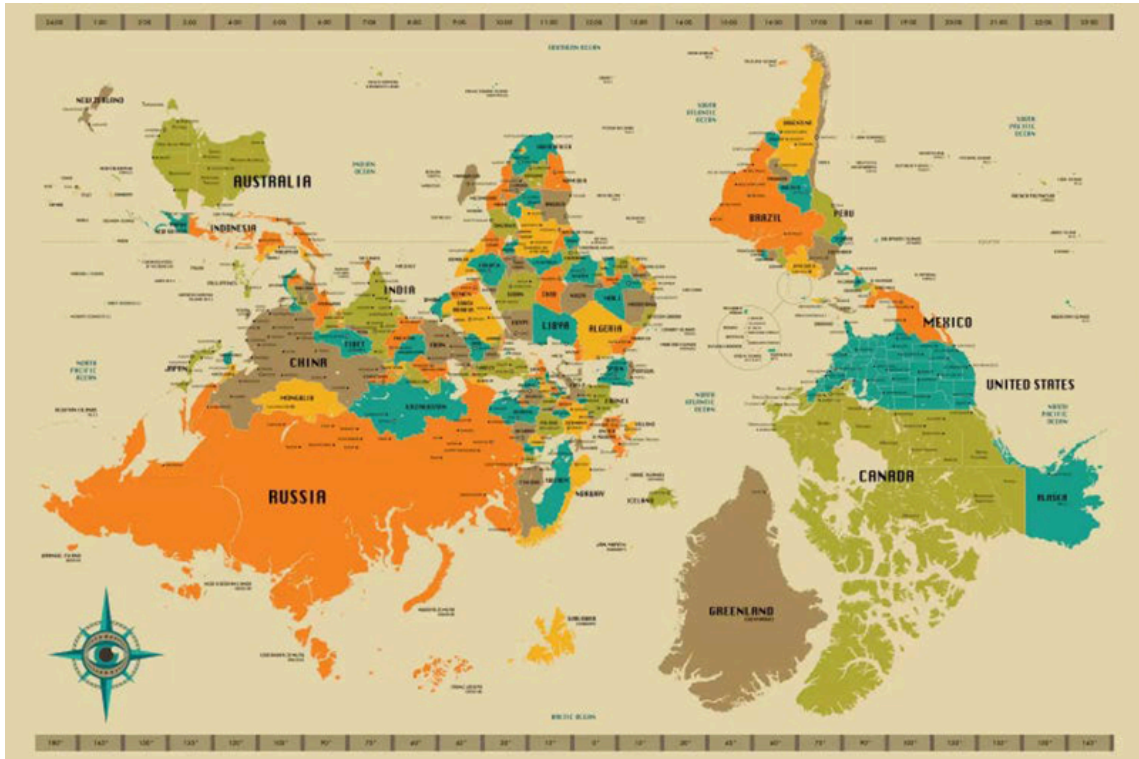


Global Modernity and Its Discontents (ENGL 4425)

Prof. Shaj Mathew (smathew@trinity.edu)



What is modernity? Is it a material structure, synonymous with capitalism, colonialism, and the world of things? Or is it an idea—a state of mind, an attitude, more akin to Enlightenment reason, rationality, and skepticism? Where is modernity: Europe, or elsewhere? Has its arrival warped the lives of cultures supposedly foreign to it? When was modernity? Is it over, and if so, what epoch has taken its place? Is modernity compatible with religion, or does it mark its end? What is modernity's relationship to the literary movement of modernism? This seminar will consider these questions through readings of literature, philosophy, and theory from around the world.

***Satisfies Written Communication (WC, Post-1800) Pathways Requirement**

Required Texts

1. Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*
2. Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
3. Orhan Pamuk, *The Museum of Innocence*

Assignments

1. 2-3-page essay on the Enlightenment [25%]
2. 2-3-page essay on capitalism [25%]
3. 2-3-page essay on imperialism/colonialism [25%]
4. 8-10-page final essay on “modernity” [25%]

Course Schedule

8/26: Introduction.

9/4: Janet Abu Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*
Karen Wigen & Martin Lewis, *The Myth of the Continents*
Marshall Hodgson, *Rethinking World History*
Andre Gunder Frank, *ReORIENT*
Ayse Zarakol, *Before the West*

9/11: Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”
Foucault, “What is Enlightenment?”
Peter Adamson, “ijtihād v taqlid” in *Don’t Think for Yourself*
Max Weber, “Science as Vocation”
Charles Taylor, introduction to *A Secular Age*
Jason Josephson-Storck, introduction to *The Myth of Disenchantment*

9/13: *First 2-3-page essay due by midnight to Canvas

9/18: Virginia Woolf, *The Waves* (aim to read half the novel—more is optional)
Virginia Woolf, “Mr Bennet and Mrs Brown” & “Street Haunting”
Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

9/25: Excerpt from Eugene McCarragher, *Enchantments of Mammon*
Karl Marx, excerpts from *Capital* and the *Grundrisse*
Marshall Berman, excerpt from *All That is Solid Melts into Air*
Nyerere, “Ujamaa: The Basis of African Socialism”
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The Transcendentalist”

9/27: *Second 2-3-page essay due by midnight to Canvas

10/2: Walter Benjamin, selected convolutes from *The Arcades Project*
Charles Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life”
Walter Benjamin, “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century”

Adunis, "Poetics and Modernity" + selected poems
Octavio Paz, excerpts from *Children of the Mire* and Nobel Address
Eric Hobsbawm, *The Invention of Tradition*

10/9: Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (full)
Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Introduction
Wael Hallaq, *Restating Orientalism*, Introduction
Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, excerpt
 *Optional Walter Mignolo, "Third Nomos of the Earth"
Brief excerpts from Edward Said + Fredric Jameson

10/16: Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, "The Prosecutor's Speech" & "The Brothers Get Acquainted"
Jalal Al-e Ahmad, *Occidentosis*
Ali Shariati, *Marxism and Other Western Fallacies*
Olufemi Taiwo, *Against Decolonization: Taking African Agency Seriously*
Rabindranath Tagore, "To My Hosts" from *Talks in China*

10/18: *Third 2-3-page essay due to Canvas by midnight

10/23: Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
Optional excerpt from Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Optional excerpt from Samir Amin, *Eurocentrism and Global History*

10/30: Orhan Pamuk, *The Museum of Innocence*. [first third of novel]
Nobel Address (from *Other Colors*).

11/6: Pamuk, *Mol* + excerpts from *Snow* [second third]

11/13: Finish Pamuk, *Mol* + excerpts from Marcel Proust, Ralph Ellison, & James Baldwin

11/20: Meet with me one-on-one – complete 2-page draft of outline by this point

12/4: Lecture on argumentation / Workshop essay outlines.

Final 8-10-page essay due