Course Description

We live in an age of global circulation, yet our idea of literature remains entrenched within the domain of a text’s language or the geographic specificity of its production. What, then, to make of literatures created by the effects of diaspora, migration, and exile? How to read a literature written beyond the mother tongue or in a state of translation?

This course is designed to introduce students to literary texts which bear a strained relation to the nation state as well as key theoretical texts in the thinking of modern literature and nationality. Students will develop skills in frameworks that expand traditional area and literary studies through close attention to issues of language and gender, as well as colonial contexts, the history of comparative literature, and the disciplinary status of ‘area’.