COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: EXILE AND MIGRATION IN WORLD LITERATURE

COURSE DATA

Degree	European Track
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credits	**6**
Course type	Elective
Department	Translation and Multilingual Communication
Language of instruction	English
Name and email of instructor	Carmen Birkle (carmen.birkle@uni-marburg.de) Susanne Cadera (scadera@comillas.edu) Margherita Ganeri (margherita.ganeri@unical.it) Andrew Walsh (aswalsh@comillas.edu)

SHORT DESCRIPTION

"Exile and Migration in World Literature" analyses how literature as one of the essential parts of our culture is a potential source for historical and cultural knowledge and also reflects different traditions and world views. The course aims to generate among students a heightened awareness of and sensitivity to the impact that exile and migration have upon literature, how exiles and migrants contribute through their literature to a better understanding of their experiences and their integration, and how they enrich the literary panorama of their adoptive societies.

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CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: “Introduction to Migratory Realities and Literature”. In this general part, we will delve into the guiding concepts of the course, “migration”, “refugees”, “exile”, “world literature”, and analyze some literary examples in order to understand how authors introduce migratory realities in their work.

TOPIC 2: Writing U.S. (Im)Migration from a Child’s Perspective”: In transnational contexts, children’s experiences are often not recorded and lost to cultural memory. However, they are a significant factor in worldwide (im)migration processes and migrants’ identities.

TOPIC 3: Exile and Spanish Literature”: An introduction to the fundamental role played by exiles in the literature of Spain, a country where according to the novelist Juan Goytisolo ‘intellectuals have always been candidates for exile.

TOPIC 4: “Trauma Studies and Diaspora Studies within the debate on World Literature: the case of the Global Novel”: An exploration of the intersections between Trauma Studies and Diaspora Studies within the current debate on World Literature, focusing on the narrative strategies and ethical implications of the Global Novel.

TOPIC 5: “Building Worlds: Asian Foodways in North America”: We will look at how Asian foodways and their literary representations in North America have contributed to the formation of transnational identities because We Are What We Eat (Gabaccia).

TOPIC 6: Final Group Presentations

METHODOLOGY

1. Presentations on each of the topics in the syllabus
2. Analysis and discussion of these topics
3. Each topic in the syllabus requires students to read the material set by the professor and be ready to discuss these texts in the online classes.
4. Students will be expected to participate actively in the online discussion of the topics and texts included in the syllabus and their level of participation will be reflected in the final grade.
5. Students will be expected to prepare a group presentation (max. 15 minutes) on any topic related to the syllabus. The presentation must be made by small groups of minimum 2 and maximum 4 students and uploaded previously to the course Moodle.
6. Online tutorials will be used for clearing up any doubts about the material discussed in class

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage

FINAL PRESENTATIONS	The students will be graded based on the degree of preparation and the overall quality, originality and coherence of the presentation and its relevance to the subject	80%
PARTICIPATION	Regular participation online and compliance with format and deadline of final assignment.	20%

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**
- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

CONTACT HOURS	OUTSIDE CLASSROOM	OVERALL
30	120	150

READING LIST / relevant references

Damrosch, David. *What Is World Literature?* Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Foucault, Michel & Miskowlec, Jay. "Of Other Spaces" Diacritics , Spring, 1986, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 22-27 Published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press

Gabaccia, Donna. *Italy's Many Diasporas,* London and Seattle: University College of London Press and University of Washington Press, 2000.

Kamen, Henry m Kamen, Henry, 2008. *The Disinherited. The Exiles who created Spanish Culture.* London: Penguin. 2008

Adam Kirsch, *The Global Novel: Writing the World in the 21st Century*, New York: Columbia Global Reports, 2016.

Rushdie, Salman. *Imaginary Homelands. Essays and Criticism 1981-1991*. London: Granta Books, 1992.,

Said, Edward. *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 2000.

Vlasta, Sandra. "Migration Literature and/as World Literature. An Evaluation of Different Approaches to the Relationship between Them", Journal of World Literature 10 (2025), pp. 9–26.

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