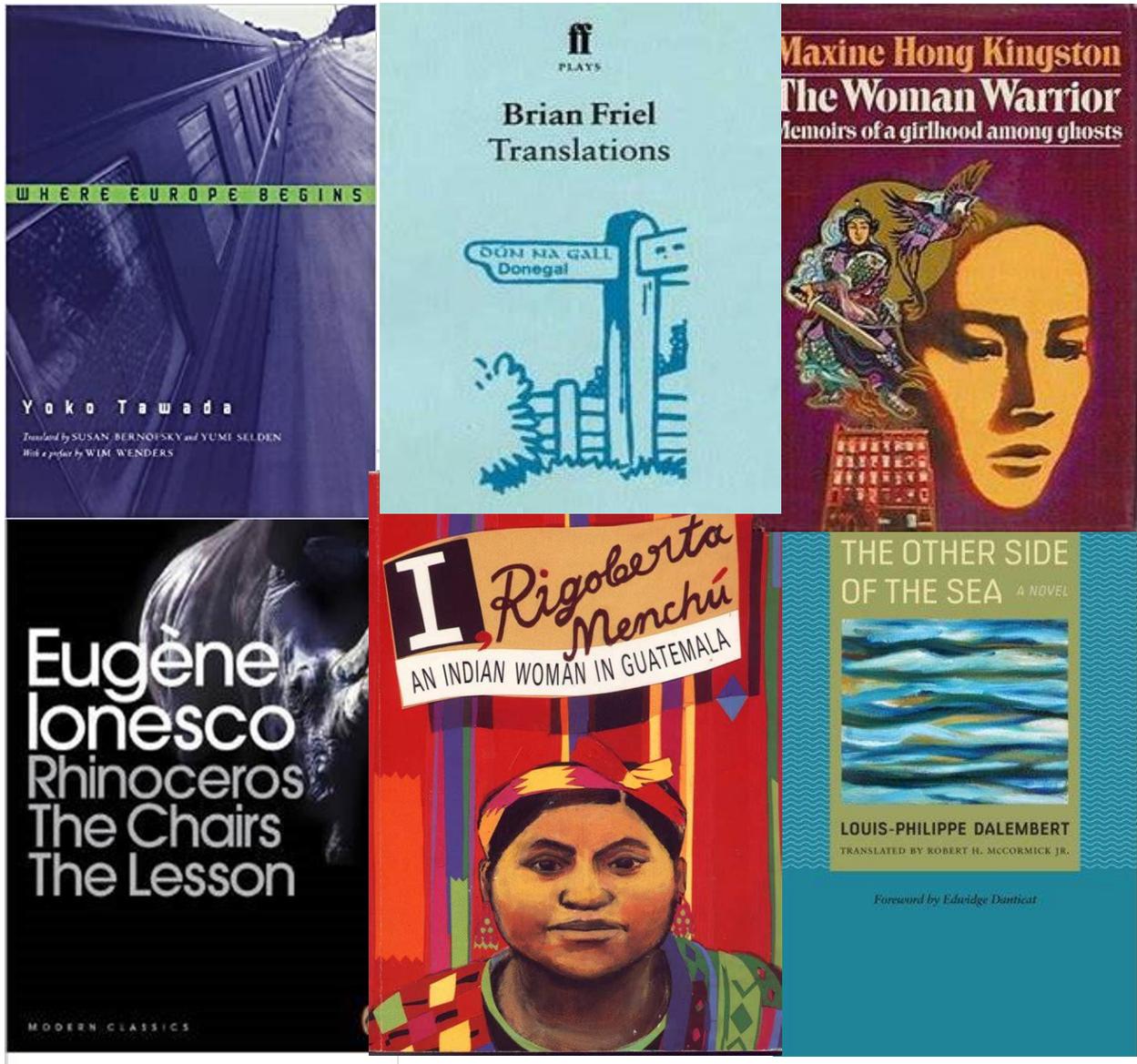


THE SCENE OF LEARNING

COM4207

2022/2023



The Teaching Team

Module Convenor: Dr Kasia Mika : k.mika@qmul.ac.uk [I will respond to your e-mail within 3 working days, Mon-Fri (9-5 pm)]

Module Tutor: Dr Annabel Cox a.cox@qmul.ac.uk

Office and Advising Hours:

What is the module about? Module Description:

This module considers a range of texts from across the globe produced in different times and places which explore the relationship between writing and learning. The module sets out to do two things.

Firstly, it enables you to begin comparing and contrasting texts from across cultural contexts to develop your skills of textual analysis, including close reading, essay writing, researching and referencing. This will be central to all of the other modules you will do in the course of your degree.

Secondly, it gives you the opportunity to reflect on your individual status as learners and your own personal learning experiences. You will be considering your experiences to date as well as your expectations as to what a university education can offer and provide for your future career

What will I learn? Learning Outcomes:

- How to read a literary text and identify problems and tensions in it
- Enriching personal understanding with critical sources (secondary reading)
- How to write the literary critical essay

What do I need to read? What do I need to buy?

1. **Locate+ Read the Student Handbook:** Before the start of the term, all students need to read the copy of the **Undergraduate Student Handbook (on QM+)**, especially sections: 2, 4, and 5.
2. **Get books:** You need to purchase and read the following texts [in the order listed]. All other texts and cultural objects will be available on QM+ or via the University Library.
 - There are multiple second-hand bookshops and online purchase options: paperback/hardback; paper/e-book; new/used. All options are fine as long as you have the text with you, can make notes on it and have the correct translation (important esp. for Ionesco). The University Library also has couple of copies of each text. Feel free to also buy e-books/second-hand copies. Some links provided.
 - Blackwells has all the books we need: <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/home>
3. **Read the books before the class:** The books are listed in a chronological order (i.e., we will first read Tawada, then Kingston, etc.). **You need to read the texts in advance and have a copy (digital or paper) with you during the seminar.**

SEMESTER I:

1. Tawada, Yoko, *Where Europe Begins*, transl. by Susan Bernofsky and Yumi Selden (New Directions, New York, 2002) [first and second-hand copies available online; also in kindle version];
<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Where-Europe-Begins-by-Yoko-Tawada-author-Susan-Bernofsky-translator-Yumi-Selden-translator/9780811217026>
2. Kingston, Maxine Hong, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* (London: Picador Classic, [1989] 2015) [multiple first and second-hand copies available online; couple of copies in the library]
3. Dalember, Louis-Philippe, *The other side of the sea*, transl. by Robert H. McCormick (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014); 1 copy in the library.

Available in paperback, via Blackwells.; <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Other-Side-of-the-Sea-by-Louis-Philippe-Dalember-Robert-H-McCormick-Jr-translator-Edwidge-Danticat-foreword/9780813936475>

Also available as an e-book from: <https://books.telegraph.co.uk/Product/Louis-Philippe-Dalembert/The-Other-Side-of-the-Sea/20694349>

Also First/second-hand from Bookshop.org (<https://uk.bookshop.org/books/the-other-side-of-the-sea-a-novel/9780813936475>); Amazon; You're welcome to also read it in the French original version

SEMESTER 2:

1. Menchu, Rigoberta, *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, transl. by Ann Wright (London: Verso, 1984)
2. Barghouti, Mourid, *I Saw Ramallah*, transl. by Ahdaf Soueif (Bloomsbury Publishing PLC; 2nd ed. edition (16 May 2005) [with introduction by Edward Said]

Plays:

3. Ionesco, Eugène, 'The Lesson' in *Rhinoceros, The Chairs, The Lesson*, transl. by Derek Prowse, Donald Watson (London: Penguin Classics, 2000)
4. Friel, Brian, *Translations* (Faber and Faber, London, 1981)

What will teaching look like?

Each week, we will have a **2hr workshop seminar** (in person). In order to prepare for the seminars, **you will need to do all the readings listed for that week as well as any seminar preparation tasks set for the week**. We will be talking about literature, life, what's important for us, politics, art... There will always be a chance to contribute and learn from others. **If you cannot attend the seminar for other reasons, do let your tutor know in advance and submit your seminar preparation homework before the seminar (by e-mail).**

Seminar Preparation includes: reading the whole text before the seminars, completing the seminar prep sheets, and tasks set out in the weekly check list, and being ready to discuss the texts in our seminar discussions. All this is graded in the Seminar Skills component of the assessment. **The more you prepare and participate, the more you learn!**

How will I be assessed?

The assessment for this year-long module consists of the following:

Sem 1: 50% of overall grade [assessment dates TBC week 1]

1. In-class quiz 5% [online 15 min] [week 5: 24th- 28th October 2022; the quiz will be open min. 24hrs]
2. Close Commentary (750 words) 10% : [week 7: Tuesday 8th November 2022; 23.55]
3. Comparative Essay 1 (2500 words) 25 % [January Exam Week, Monday 9th January 2023; 23.55]
4. Seminar Skills 10% [Assessed throughout the Semester; marks at the end of each semester]

Sem 2: 50% of overall grade

1. In-class quiz 5% [15 min] [week 5: the quiz will be open for 24hrs]
2. Analysing a Scholarly Debate (750 words) 10% [week 7: Tuesday, 7th March 2023
3. Comparative Essay 2 (2500 words) 25% **Monday, 24th April 2023**
4. Seminar Skills 10% [Assessed throughout the Semester; marks at the end of each semester]

The final grade will be the average of the two grades at the end of each semester. You will receive detailed information for each of the tasks separately.

RE-SITS: 2500-words; 100% (final grade). Re-sits are due in the August exam session. The grades are capped at 40. The task usually consists of writing a comparative essay based on the texts from the module.

What if I submit my assessment late?

From: Section 2 of *The Student Handbook* (QM+):

You can submit work prior to the deadline, and you would be well-advised not to leave work to the last minute. Work submitted after the deadline (even by 5 minutes!) will be subject to late penalties as below:

- minus 5 marks for the first 24 hours,
- and a further 5 marks off for each 24 hour period after that, up to 7 days.
- If an assignment is submitted more than 7 days late, it will receive 0 marks and be recorded as 'Not Submitted' (NS).

If you have personal or medical issues that prevent you from being able to complete your work in time, you may ask for an extension to the deadline by completing the Extenuating Circumstances form, which is available online via the [SLLF Landing Page](#). Work handed in more than 7 days late without an agreed extension will receive a mark of zero.

How do I get feedback? When Will I Get My Work Back?

Each seminar discussion is an opportunity to receive informal feedback on your understanding of the texts and ideas discussed. In addition, each term you will receive written feedback on your seminar. **For all written assessed work, you will get written feedback within 4 working weeks after the submission deadline.**

Who can help me with improving my essay writing skills?

First: your seminar tutor. Come to the office hours to discuss what needs to be improved and how.

Second: the SLLF Writing Centre. The School runs a Writing Support Centre, coordinated by Dr Kirsteen Anderson, that runs parallel to the QMUL Learning Development services in the QMUL Library.

The SLLF Writing Centre will run via a combination of in-person and MS Teams teaching this year. You will receive weekly e-mail prompts reminding you of this support. All you need do to book an individual half-hour session is contact Kirsteen at k.h.r.anderson@qmul.ac.uk.

COM4207: WEEK-BY-WEEK MODULE TIMETABLE

SEMESTER I

Week	Texts	Study Notes
Block 1: Why Learn?		
1 w/c 26 th September 2022	<p>-Malcolm X, 'Learning to Read' [extracts from <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>]; Extracts from: start of chapter 11 to description of debating up to Shakespeare/King James Bible debate [as marked on the doc file/pdf].</p> <p>-<i>College Behind the Bars</i> documentary; 2 episodes screened on BBC Storyville. Available via Box of Broadcast (QMUL Login will be needed to access): https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand</p> <p>Part 1: https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/prog/164058F0?bcast=132147516</p> <p>Part 2: https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/prog/164058F2?bcast=132147630</p>	<p>Introduction to the Module: What is Education?</p> <p>Texts and links on QM+</p>
2 w/c 3 th October 2022	<p>-Adrienne Rich, <i>Claiming an Education: Commencement Speech</i></p> <p>-visual art works by Sasha Huber (http://sashahuber.com/) from <i>Shooting Back</i> and <i>The Firsts</i> series (part of <i>Shooting</i> theme works): http://sashahuber.com/?cat=10010&lang=fi&mstr=10009</p> <p>-Who is Adrienne Rich? https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/adrienne-rich</p>	On QM+
3 w/c 10 th October 2022	<p>-Jonathan Culler, 'What is Interpretation' [extract; doc file]</p> <p>- Yoko Tawada, from <i>Where Europe Begins</i>: Read the following stories (in Section II):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Canned Foreign' • 'The Talisman' • 'Storytellers without Souls' • 'Where Europe Begins' <p>Who is Tawada+ info on her other books: https://www.ndbooks.com/author/yoko-tawada/</p>	On QM+.
4 w/c 17 th October 2022	<p>Yoko Tawada, from <i>Where Europe Begins</i>: Read the following stories (in Section II):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Canned Foreign' • 'The Talisman' • 'Storytellers without Souls' • 'Where Europe Begins' <p>Who is Tawada+ info on her other books: https://www.ndbooks.com/author/yoko-tawada/</p>	Tawada: You need your copy of the text.
Block 2: Different Wor(l)ds		
5 w/c 24 th October 2022	<p>-Maxine Kingston, <i>The Woman Warrior</i></p> <p>Who is Kingston: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Maxine-Hong-Kingston</p>	Kingston: you need your copy of the text.

	ONLINE TEST 1: [will be open min. 24hrs]	
6 w/c 31 st October 2022	- Maxine Kingston, <i>The Woman Warrior</i> LIBRARY WORKSHOP: how to find the texts I need?	Kingston: you need your copy of the text.
7 w/c 7 th November 2022	STUDY WEEK: NO SEMINARS CLOSE COMMENTARY DUE	
8 w/c 14 th November 2022	- Louis-Philippe Dalembert (transl. Robert H. McCormick Jr.), <i>The Other Side of the Sea</i> Who is Dalembert+ interview: https://lithub.com/louis-philippe-dalembert-migration-is-part-of-my-story/ + CAREER WORKSHOP: What is a good life? What next?	Dalembert: you need your copy of the text.
Block 3: Isles of Meaning		
9 w/c 21 st November 2022	- Louis-Philippe Dalembert (transl. Robert H. McCormick Jr.), <i>The Other Side of the Sea</i> -Jean D'Amérique, extracts from <i>Nul chemin dans la peau que saignante étreinte</i> , Cheyne éditeur, 2017 (transl. by Conor Bracken) http://smallaxe.net/sxsalon/poetry-prose/poems-jean-damerique-translated-conor-bracken -	Dalembert: you need your copy of the text. On QM+.
10 w/c 28 th November 2022	-Myriam J.Chancy, 'Under/Water' (2011), in <i>Meridians</i> 11.1, pp. 114-7 : https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/meridians.11.1.114 -René Depestre, (transl. Anita Sagástegui) 'Mère caraïbe / Caribbean Mother': http://www.cerisepress.com/02/06/caribbean-mother#english	All texts on QM+.
11 w/c 5 th December 2022	-Frank Martinus Arion, (transl. Estelle Debrot) From 'Stemmen Uit Afrika XXV' ["Voices from Africa"] - Pierre A. Lauffer (transl. Aart G. Broek), 'Kòrsou / Curaçao'	All texts on QM+.
12 w/c 12 th December 2022	ESSAY WORKSHOP: What is a good comparative essay? -Ben Hutchinson, 'Practices and Principles' [section 2 in <i>Comparative Literature: A Very Short Introduction</i>] COMPARATIVE ESSAY DUE	All texts on QM+.

SEMESTER 2

week	Texts	Study Notes
BLOCK 1: (Re)writing the 'I'		
1 w/c 23 rd January 2023	<p>FEEDBACK WORKSHOP: How can I improve my writing?</p> <p>[Start reading: Rigoberta Menchú, <i>I, Rigoberta Menchu?</i>]</p>	Re-read and bring your essay + close-commentary feedback from Sem 1
2 w/c 30 th January 2023	<p>-Rigoberta Menchú, <i>I, Rigoberta Menchu</i></p> <p>-Larry Rohter, 'Nobel Winner Finds Her Story Challenged' from <i>The New York Times</i></p> <p>-testimonio' from <i>The Encyclopedia of Latin American and Caribbean Literature</i></p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Articles on QM+</p>
3 w/c 6 th February 2023	<p>-Rigoberta Menchú, <i>I, Rigoberta Menchu</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Following secondary texts: [read Damrosch last]:</p> <p>-Zimmerman, Testimonio in Guatemala'</p> <p>-Beverly, 'The Margin at the Center: On Testimonio'</p> <p>-David Damrosch, 'Chapter 8: Rigoberta Menchú in Print'</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>All texts on QM+.</p>
4 w/c 13 th February 2023	<p>-Mourid Barghouti, <i>I Saw Ramallah</i></p> <p>-Anna Bernard, ' "Who Would Dare to Make It into an Abstraction": Mourid Barghouti's <i>I Saw Ramallah</i>', esp. pp. 67-70 [chapter; you can read it all]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ONLINE QUIZ [will be open min. 24hrs]</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Bernard on QM+</p>
5 w/c 20 th February 2023	<p>-Mourid Barghouti, <i>I Saw Ramallah</i></p> <p>-David Farrier, 'Washing words: The politics of water in Mourid Barghouti's <i>I Saw Ramallah</i>', pp. 187-199 [article]</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Farrier on QM+</p>
6 w/c 27 th February 2023	<p>CAREER WORKSHOP II: What is a good life? What next? From plans to concrete steps.</p>	
7 w/c 6 th March 2023	<p>STUDY WEEK:</p> <p>ANALYSING A SCHOLARY DEBATE DUE Tuesday, 7th March 2023</p>	NO SEMINARS 7-11 March 2022
BLOCK 2: From text to stage		
8 w/c 13 th March 2023	<p>-Eugène Ionesco, <i>The Lesson</i></p> <p>-Martin Esslin, 'The Theatre of Absurd', pp. 3-15 [article]</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Esslin on QM+</p>
9 w/c 20 th March 2023	<p>-Eugène Ionesco, <i>The Lesson</i></p> <p>-Michael Y. Bennett, <i>Reassessing the Theatre of Absurd</i> [book extracts; pp. 1-14+ 20-23]</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Bennett on QM+</p>

<p>10 w/c 27th March 2023</p>	<p>-Brian Friel, <i>Translations</i></p> <p>-Watch the 2018 National Theatre production of <i>Translations</i>: you will have to login via QMUL to access it via Drama Online:</p> <p>Friel Brian. <i>Translations</i>, National Theatre Collection https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/video?docid=do-9781350999060&tocid=do-9781350999060_6146531416001</p> <p>We will re-watch parts of it in class.</p>	<p>You need your own copy of the text.</p> <p>Play: Drama Online</p>
<p>11 w/c 3rd April 2023</p>	<p>-Brian Friel, <i>Translations</i></p> <p>- Suzy Clarkson Holstein, 'Carrying across into Silence: Brian Friel's <i>Translations</i>'</p> <p>-Watch the 2018 National Theatre production of <i>Translations</i>: you will have to login via QMUL to access it via Drama Online:</p> <p>Friel Brian. <i>Translations</i>, National Theatre Collection https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/video?docid=do-9781350999060&tocid=do-9781350999060_6146531416001</p> <p>Bank holidays: 7 and 10 April 2023: Seminar plan might be slightly adjusted (no change to the texts we read though).</p>	<p>Article on QM+</p> <p>Play: Drama Online</p>
<p>12 w/c 10th April 2023</p>	<p>ESSAY WORKSHOP: What is an even better comparative essay? What is a 'good' secondary source?</p> <p>COMPARATIVE ESSAY DUE Monday, 24th April 2023</p>	<p>Bring your feedback from 'Analysing a Scholarly Debate' task</p>