

NEW GE CAT II COURSE! NEW GE CAT II COURSE!

On Location: The Place of Literature in Global Cultures

COLT 102g, Class #22000R, Spring 2009, Mon & Wed, 10:00-11:50, SOS B44

Select One Discussion Section: Thursdays at 9:00 or 10:00



William Kentridge, *An Embarkation* (1998)

This course will examine the role of cities as places in, and for, literature in a global context outside the West. In our readings, we will ask inquire how the city has been identified with the processes of modernization. Moreover, how has the city remained a place of tradition and memory? How has the city defined itself against other places (such as the desert, the wilderness, the village, the mobile settlement)? How do we understand places by reading? How does writing map places? We will read a series of fictional texts coming from a range of geopolitical territories outside the West; our readings originate, variously, and in no particular sequence, from China, Japan, Algeria, Lebanon, Brazil, Egypt, Iran, and South Africa. The selected texts raise questions about genre and forms, including folktales, biography, autobiography, the novel, fantasy, realism, and metafiction (fiction about fiction). Further, we will ask about the kinds of identity formed in and through cities; we will investigate what sorts of stories fictions of the city tell about groups and collectives. The aim of the class is to introduce students to methods and issues in Comparative Literature via a reading of geopolitically diverse texts. We will be reading a range of novels, including two graphic novels, and we will watch one film.

This course is an option for the Global Cultures Track of the COLT minor.

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