

<b>FRENCH 262</b>
<b>Harvard College/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences:</b> 161257
<b>Term:</b> Spring 2020
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b> Francoise Lionnet
<b>Location:</b> Boylston 403 (FAS)
<b>Meeting Time:</b> Wednesday 12:45 PM - 02:45 PM
<b>Exam Group:</b> FAS12_I
<b>Course Description:</b> This graduate course links different regions of the Francophone world and provides an introduction to the major debates about gender issues in postcolonial Francophone studies. We focus on the aesthetics and politics of writers who challenge the notion of a stable identity, be it national, racial or sexual. The course draws on the historico-cultural issues pertinent to each region (Africa, the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean). Writers include Mariama Bâ (Senegal), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe/France/USA), Ananda Devi (Mauritius and France), Fatou Diome (Senegal and France), Assia Djebar (Algeria/France/USA), Marie Chauvet (Haiti), Shenaz Patel (Mauritius), and Linda Lê (Vietnam and France).

French 262 Spring 2020

Wed 12:45-2:45 pm

Prof. Françoise Lionnet

Office hours: Wed 3-4 pm in Boylston 517

### **Transnationalism in/and the Francophone World: Race, Gender, Sexuality**

This graduate course links different regions of the Francophone world and provides an introduction to debates about nationalism, transnationalism, and gender issues in postcolonial Francophone studies. We focus on definitions of nation and transnationalism, and on the aesthetics and politics of writers who challenge the notion of a stable identity, be it national, racial or sexual. The course draws on the historico-cultural issues pertinent to each region (the continent of Africa, Vietnam, the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and their islands). Writers include Tahar Ben Jelloun (Morocco, France), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe/France/ USA), Fatou Diome and Ousmane Sembene (Senegal), Fabienne Kanor (France and Martinique), Ananda Devi (Mauritius and France), Assia Djebar (Algeria/France/USA), Linda Lê (Vietnam and

France), and Shenaz Patel (Mauritius). *Advanced reading knowledge of French required*. But participation in class and written work *may be in English*.

**Short stories, excerpts, and theoretical texts available on Canvas, under course files**

**Books on order at the COOP:** <https://tinyurl.com/300-W20-FREN-262-1> [Links to an external site.](#)

**Required films in Lamont Lib, provided in class or and streaming**

**Primary Texts (in alphabetical order):**

Tahar Ben Jelloun, *L'enfant de sable*

Marie Chauvet, *Amour* (short story, pdf)

Maryse Condé, *Histoire de la femme cannibale*

Ananda Devi, *Indian Tango*

Fatou Diome, *Le ventre de l'Atlantique*

Assia Djebar, *Nulle part dans la maison de mon père* (first half only, pdf)

Fabienne Kanor, *Humus*

Linda Lê, *Lettre morte* (short essay, pdf)

Shenaz Patel, *Le silence des Chagos*

Ousmane Sembene, *La Noire de....* (short story, pdf)

**Films:**

David Constantin, *Diego l'interdite* (2002)

Marina Kem, *Bonne nuit, Papa* (2014)

<https://vimeo.com/91945105> [Links to an external site.](#) (trailer)

Sembene, *La Noire de....* (1966)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMDg2UAYXSs>Links to an external site.



(full length)

Moussa Traoré, *La Pirogue* (2012)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to9H5IWLNiM>Links to an external site.



(trailer)

## Course requirements and evaluation

Class participation is essential and requires careful reading of all the assigned material; the class is conducted in French and English (depending on material discussed), and advanced reading knowledge of French is required.

Papers may be written in English or in French.

1. Weekly posts on canvas—you are free to **post comments on any and all readings**, and to engage respectfully with other's comments. The goal is to begin a conversation that is essential to # 2 below and to a productive class discussion. I am not "grading" these comments, but value your efforts: 15%.
2. Weekly class discussion and participation: 15%
3. Final essay (4000-5000 words) due May 13: 40%
4. One class presentation: 30% (*please sign up soon*). **Presentations must be accompanied by a typed handout distributed to the class, which will include a summary of the major points covered in the presentation as well as a list of 2 or 3 questions for class discussion. Bear in mind that a concise, well organized presentation takes careful preparation. Please turn in to me your written comments.**

*Please familiarize yourself with*

-- the Academic Integrity Policy available on Canvas

-- the Honor Code website: <http://honor.fas.harvard.edu/>Links to an external site.  
[Links to an external site.](#)

-- the Harvard Guide to Using Sources

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FOR FEB 26, MARCH 4 AND 11, DUE TO PROF. LIONNET'S ILLNESS.**

## **Weekly Syllabus (subject to change) –Wednesdays**

### **1/ 29**

Introductions: from nation to trans/nation and unbelonging; migration and the lure of western culture; displacement and the difference gender makes; minor transnationalism explained.

Renan, *Qu'est-ce qu'une nation?* + short texts on "Nation," "Nationalism" and "Creole and Creolization"

### **2/ 5**

European Others: Lionnet and Shih, *Minor Transnationalism* (Introduction only, in course files)

Fatima El-Tayeb, "Theorizing Urban Minorities in Postnational Europe" (in files)

Ousmane Sembène, *La Noire de....* (short story in files and film here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMDg2UAYXSs>Links to an external site.

### **2/ 12**

The continuing lure of Europe: "Literature and Nationalism" in files; sports and nationalism: Fatou Diome, *Le ventre de l'Atlantique*. Author interview (2014) [Fatou Diome "Le mythe de la France eldorado" | Archive INA](#)Links to an external site.

Moussa Toure's *La Pirogue* (in media gallery)

and Senegalese music to read it by

[Kora et chants traditionnels du Sénégal](#)Links to an external site.

### **2/ 19**

Narrative, gender bending, and Muslim traditions: Tahar Ben Jelloun, *L'enfant de sable*

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahar\\_Ben\\_Jelloun](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahar_Ben_Jelloun) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

<http://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/893/the-art-of-fiction-no-159-tahar-ben-jelloun>Links to an external site.

2/ 26

Gender and unbelonging, aesthetics and identity: Assia Djebar, *Nulle part dans la maison de mon père* (pdf in files). **SEE EMAIL SENT LAST WEEK ABOUT DISCUSSION TOPICS.**

3/ 4

Migrancy and statelessness in the Indian Ocean: Shenaz Patel, *Le silence des Chagos*; Constantin, *Diego l'interdite* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego Garcia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego_Garcia)[Links to an external site.](#); David Vine, *Island of Shame*, Chs. 1 and 2 (view on line in Hollis); recommended: Waters on the problem of belonging and belonging nowhere (in files, on Mauritian lit. and Shenaz Patel (also online in Hollis, whole book is open access) [Nikhita Obeegadoo Links to an external site.](#)

3/ 11

[Prof. Siskind on Migration and Transnationalism](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

J. Derrida: "Le mot d'accueil" (in *Adieu à*

Levinas: [https://monoskop.org/images/6/6a/Derrida Jacques Adieu a Emmanuel Levinas 1997.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/6/6a/Derrida_Jacques_Adieu_a_Emanuel_Levinas_1997.pdf)[Links to an external site.](#))

J. Kristeva: *Etrangers à nous-mêmes* (chapters 1 and 8--posted in files).

**3/ 18: Spring Break**

3/25

Maryse Condé, *Histoire de la femme cannibal*; <http://ile-en-ile.org/conde/>[Links to an external site.](#)

Book chapters by Boisseron and Githire (Hollis info sent by email)

The visit of Prof. Alison Rice, Notre Dame University, is cancelled; presentation on Condé by Saran

4/1

Slavery, memory, and erasure: Fabienne Kanor, *Humus*; Edouard Glissant, from *Poetics of Relation* (Section III, pp. 86-120). Recommended: article by Christiane Taubira and interview with Kanor (both under their names/AFCUL in canvas files)

<https://nouvelleorleans.consulfrance.org/Five-Questions-for-Fabienne-Kanor>

Presentations by David on Kanor and and Ivy on Glissant

**4/8**

1) Postcolonial citizens and trauma: France and Indochina/Vietnam: Linda Lê, *Lettre morte* +Film: Marina Kem, *Bonne nuit, papa*-

<https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/research-centres/centre-study-contemporary-womens-writing/languages/french/linda-l%C3%AALinks to an external site.>

added to files: essays by Sara Collie and Siobhan McIlvanney

Presentation by Rachel

2) Indian Ocean Sexualities: Ananda Devi, *Indian Tango*.

<https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/research-centres/centre-study-contemporary-womens-writing/languages/french/ananda-deviLinks to an external site.>

added to files: my two books (uncorrected proofs of Vols. I and II) published in Mauritius. Vol I has 2 chaps on Devi (just FYI); also see Cécile Jest's essay in French in the journal COMA

[Links to an external site.](#) Presentation by Mariya

**4/15**

Redrawing the Boundaries? Lionnet, "Universalisms" (2009, 2020), Donadey & Murdoch; François Cusset; Hargreaves et al; Lionnet 2003

Presentation by Maria

**4/22**

**Conclusions and Presentation of final projects**

**NO LATE PAPERS PLEASE**

**Final paper due on May 13 by 11:59 pm.**

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-- the Harvard Guide to Using Sources

**Preliminary theoretical and historical research bibliography** (tentative; more critical material pertinent to each required reading will be suggested as needed)

Norma Alarcon, Caren Kaplan, and Minoo Moallem, "Introduction" and essays by Dorinne Kondo, "Fabricating Masculinity," Minoo Moallem, "Transnationalism, Feminism, and Fundamentalism." *Between Woman and Nation: Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, and the State* (1999), 1-18, 286-348

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (1983, 1991), Preface to 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, and 1-66, 187-206

Susan Andrade, *The Nation Writ Small: African Fictions and Feminisms, 1958-1988* (2011), 1-43; (+ 71-113 on Bâ)

Ulrich Beck, *What is Globalization?* (2000), 1-15, 72-86

Homi Bhabha, ed. *Nation and Narration* (1990) (includes Renan's "What is a Nation")

Elleke Boehmer, "Edward Said and (the Postcolonial Occlusion of) Gender." Ranjan Ghosh, ed. *Edward Said and the Literary, Social, and Political World* (2009), 124-36

Véronique Bragard, "Shipwrecking the World's 'Wretched Refuse.'" Carl Thompson, ed., *Shipwreck in Art and Literature* (2014), 187-203

----- and Srilata Ravi, *Écritures mauriciennes au féminin: penser l'altérité* (2011)

Odile Cazenave, *Afrique sur Seine: A New Generation of African Writers in Paris* (2005)

Myriam Chancy, *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women* (1997)

----- *Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women Writers in Exile* (1997)

François Cusset, *French Theory ... les mutations de la vie intellectuelle aux Etats-Unis* (chap 13, 14 and Conclusion) (2003), 301-52

Vlad Dima, "Ousmane Sembene's *La Noire de....*: melancholia in photo, text, and film," *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 26.1 (2014): 56-68  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13696815.2013.811069>

Anne Donadey, *Recasting Postcolonialism: Women Writing Between Worlds* (2001)

Uzo Esonwanne, "Enlightenment Epistemology and 'Aesthetic Cognition': Bà's *So long a Letter*," Obioma Nnaemeka, ed. *The Politics of (M)othering* (1997), pp. 82-100

Paul Gilroy, *Postcolonial Melancholia* (2005), 1-26

Mary Jean Green et al., eds. "Introduction," Ronnie Scharfman, "Theorizing Terror: Marie Chauvet," John Erickson, "Women's Space and Enabling Dialogue in Assia Djebar," *Postcolonial Subjects: Francophone Women Writers* (1996), ix-xi; 229-45; 304-44

Stephen Greenblatt, "Introduction," *Cultural Mobility: A Manifesto* (2010), 1-23

Charles Gueboguo, « L'homosexualité en Afrique: sens et variations d'hier à nos jours », *Socio-logos* [Online], 1 | 2006, Online since 09 October 2008, connection on 19 January 2016. URL : <http://socio-logos.revues.org/37>

Colette Guillaumin, *Sexe, Race et Pratique du Pouvoir* (1992): 13-82; 207-18

Alec Hargreaves, Charles Forsdick and David Murphy, *Transnational French Studies: Postcolonialism and littérature-monde* (2010), 1-14 and as needed, essays by David Murphy, Lydie Moudileno, Jane Hiddleston, and Jeanne Garane

Peter Hitchcock, *Imaginary States: Studies in Cultural Transnationalism* (2003), 1-26

Kumari Issur, "L'Alter/mondialisme: imaginaires mauriciens et solidarités transnationales," *Nouvelles études francophones* 28.2 (2013): 13-26

Bruno Jean-François, "Les récits mauriciens contemporains et la nouvelle 'thalassologie': transversalités mineures, fraternités océaniques et géographies-mondes," *Revue des sciences humaines* (2020)

Ranjana Khanna, *Algeria Cuts: Women and Representation, 1830 to the Present* (2008), 103-138

Françoise Lionnet, *Postcolonial Representations: Women, Literature, Identity* (1995), 1-21; 69-86



----- "Introduction," *Francophone Studies: New Landscapes, Modern Language Notes* (2003): 783-86

----- "Continents and Archipelagoes: From *E Pluribus Unum* to Creole Solidarities," *PMLA* 123.5 (October 2008): 1503-15

----- *Écritures féminines et dialogues critiques* (2012) [http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00Q5Y9H6I?keywords=%C3%A9critures%20f%C3%A9minines&qid=1453235895&ref=sr\\_1\\_1&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00Q5Y9H6I?keywords=%C3%A9critures%20f%C3%A9minines&qid=1453235895&ref=sr_1_1&sr=8-1)Links to an external site.

----- *Le su et l'incertain* (2012)

[https://www.amazon.com/lincertain-Cosmopolitiques-créoles-océan-Indien-ebook/dp/B00Q5FXQH8/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=lionnet+su+et+l%27incertain&qid=1580830911&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/lincertain-Cosmopolitiques-créoles-océan-Indien-ebook/dp/B00Q5FXQH8/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=lionnet+su+et+l%27incertain&qid=1580830911&sr=8-1)Links to an external site.

Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih, "Thinking Through the Minor, Transnationally," *Minor Transnationalism* (2005), 1-23

Elizabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, ed. "Introduction;" Mireille Rosello, "We, the Virtual Francophone Multitudes." Both in *Empire Lost: France and Its Other Worlds* (2009), xi-xxiii; 47-66

Martin Munro, *Tropical Apocalypse: Haiti and the Caribbean End Times* (2014) Adlai Murdoch and Anne Donadey, eds., *Postcolonial Theory and Francophone Literary Studies* (2004).

Murdoch, H. Adlai, and Anne Donadey, *Postcolonial Theory and Francophone Literary Studies* (2004)

Anjali Prabhu, "Fanon, Memmi, Glissant and Postcolonial Writing," in Ato Quayson, ed., *The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature* (2011), vol II, 1068-99.

Ato Quayson and Anjali Prabhu, "Francophone Studies / Postcolonial Studies: 'Postcolonializing' through Relation," in Murdoch and Donadey, 224-34.

Ernest Renan, *Qu'est-ce qu'une nation?* (1882)

Alison Rice, *Polygraphies: Francophone Women Writing Algeria* (2012)

Tyler Stovall and George Van Den Abbeele, eds. "Introduction," *French Civilization and Its Discontents: Nationalism, Colonialism, Race* (2003), 1-15