

Literature and Revolution

Transnational Perspectives from Russia to South Asia

COLT 499, 22070, Spring 2013, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:20 pm, THH 214

This course examines a transnational body of literature whose primary aesthetic focus is social or national revolution. From anti-fascist modernist movements in Europe, and Soviet socialist movements in Russia, to anti-colonial and anti-racist struggles in South and Southeast Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Latin America, and the U.S., this course explores the ways in which a wide range of literary traditions aimed to document, represent, inspire, debate, and mobilize social transformation. Throughout this course, we will explore how these texts conceive of revolution and decolonization, as well as how they may provide a critical vantage point into the profoundly transnational circulation and cross-traffic of ideas, aesthetics, and activism, particularly between the 1930's through the 1960's. We will thus analyze these texts within the historical contexts that produce them, as well the range of artistic movements in which they emerge



"No Walls" protest, March 2012. Cairo, Egypt.

such as the Afro-Asian writers Association, the Negritude and Black Power movements, the Bloomsbury group, the International Society for the Defense of Culture, and the All-India Progressive Writers Association. Readings will include literature by Richard Wright, Maxim Gorky, Virginia Woolf, Frantz Fanon, Mohandas Gandhi, and Assia Djebar. We will also chart the contemporary legacy of these movements, and the production of what may be called a particular 'World' literary formation.

Professor Neetu Khanna
neetukha@usc.edu THH 156T