



FRENCH 305: GLOBAL WOMEN'S NARRATIVES

2- UNIT EXPERIENTIAL COURSE

TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

USC DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

SPRING 2019

TUESDAY 2 - 3:50

~ Encounter women's narratives from across the globe, then solicit and publish a new one on your own ~

In this **experiential learning** course, students will take part in a multifaceted exploration of global women's narratives of the past and the present. Using the Francophone world as a literary and cultural anchor, this course asks students to engage with the theory *and* practice of women's narrative storytelling, especially as it applies to "minor" narratives, that is, those not issuing from official spaces of knowledge production. Taught in the Department of French and Italian in conjunction with USC Levan Institute of Humanities and Ethics, this Global Women's Narratives course will allow students, on the one hand, to consider the relevance and stakes of narrative, storytelling, and testimony in Francophone Caribbean and African contexts, and on the other hand, to solicit, document, and publish narratives and testimonies of women from across the globe. Students will conduct their own interviews, transcribe them, and publish them on the Global Women's Narratives Project portal of the Levan Institute.

Although the class will be taught in English, the Francophone world will be at its center as it proves a crucial site of inquiry for global women's narratives. Students will read Claire de Duras' groundbreaking 1823 novel, *Ourika*, which tells the story of a Senegalese woman brought to France, and then progress through a number of African and Caribbean works that provide critical counterpoints to First world representations of women from the Global South, such as Awa Thiam's "Black Sisters, Speak Out" (1978), Maryse Condé's autobiographical essays (1999), Khady Sylla's film "The Silent Monologue" (2015), and testimonies of Rwandan women.

This 2-unit course counts towards the French major/minor, and is repeatable (up to 4 units total).

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