



SPRING 2023
Mon / Wed/ Fri. 10:00-10:50 am

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GESM 120g

Childhood narratives from the Francophone World

This class will introduce students to the literature and culture of the Francophone world by way of literary works and films. It will provide students with some basic tools with which to understand and evaluate creative works coming from the Francophone writers from the 20th and 21st centuries, may they live in France, in Rwanda, Caribbean Islands, may they be native speakers or immigrants in the language.

Through narratives of childhood and youth, the course will explore themes such as: Tradition and modernity; Colonialism, Power and Politics; Gender and Sexuality; Memory and Trauma; Postcolonial identities; Migration and globalization. The course will also include a session taking using the resources of the USC Shoah Foundation archives on the Rwandan genocide.

Readings:

Nathalie Sarraute: *Childhood*

Leila Sebbar: *Sherazade*

Marjane Satrapi: *The Complete Persepolis*

Natasha Appanah: *The Last Brother: A Novel*

Gaël Faye: *Small Country*

Patrick Chamoiseau: *School Days*

GESM 120G: SEMINAR IN HUMANISTIC INQUIRY (4.0 UNITS)

Interpretation and analysis of works of the imagination, exploring language, thought, and cultural traditions in relation to one another. (Satisfies GE-B, Humanistic Inquiry) Open only to Freshmen.