

ON LOCATION: THE PLACE OF LITERATURE IN GLOBAL CULTURES

COLT 102 • Spring 2025 • Professor Adam Spanos spanos@usc.edu •
Tues. Thurs. 12:30-1:50

Although humans share a planet, we do not share a common understanding of the world. Hailing from distinct religious and cultural traditions, and bringing divergent historical experiences to bear, human groups interpret the meaning of the world differently. Some understand it as raw material for production, others as a space to manage and control, and still others as a source of wonder and awe. This course surveys literatures from around the world and focuses on how the concept of 'world' has come to be imagined since the beginning of the twentieth century.



We will read works of poetry, plays, and novels from and about India, Pakistan, Korea, China, Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine, Nigeria, Senegal, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Colombia, and Russia. We will explore theories of imperialism, extractivism, global warming, migration, and cosmology. Our readings will aim to elicit and compare particular, culturally situated understandings of our unevenly shared planet.