

NEW COURSE

Winter 2024

COLT 19.06/RUSS 38.27: **Decolonizing Translation**

Distributives: LIT and NW, LRP

*“We may not be strong enough to shift oceans—but maybe, just maybe,
our collective effort will make it easier to swim against the tide.”*

Wei Ting (“How Literary Translation Can Shift the Tides of Power”)

Course description

The course takes a panoramic view of translation as an ambivalent reflection of the (post)colonial condition. As a “channel of colonization,” translation has relied on legal and linguistic manipulations and prohibitions to unleash epistemicide and linguicide. As a form of resistance, translation has channeled emancipatory postcolonial struggles. In this course, we will survey both functions between the 18th to the early 21st century. We will draw on case studies from around the globe and revisit the relationship between translation, orientalism, and world literature, as well as have a closer look at border identities across geographical regions and historical circumstances. We will also reconsider translational imagination and the art of self-translation and reflect on the gains, losses, misses, and un/translatables in translation.

Instructor: Prof. **Lada Kolomiyets**

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Office hours: Tue, Thu, 1-2pm

Meeting times: Tue, Thu, 2A

- **All course readings are on Canvas in pdf format.**
- The basic *teaching methods* include lectures, discussions, web-based learning, writing a mini-research project, and making a PPT presentation. **General philosophy** is student-centered teaching guided by the precepts of enthusiasm, flexibility, relevance, and evolution.
- **Taught in English.** No language prerequisites.