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### **Liminal Identities in North American Literature and (Popular) Culture**

This seminar aims to prepare students for writing their MA theses and guide them through the process. By working through a set of theoretical texts by scholars of literary and cultural studies (including Astrid Erll, Marianne Hirsch, Michael Rothberg, Peter Brooks, and Svetlana Boym) and applying their insights to the analysis of primary sources (historical fiction, young adult literature, picturebooks, videos, films), students will learn how to develop sophisticated research projects, pose research questions, and answer them by using supporting evidence. Based on the preliminary readings, students will formulate their own projects related to the seminar's theme – memory of marginalized social and ethnic groups in American and Canadian literature and culture. The students will be encouraged to explore literary and/or cultural materials of their own choosing, provided they are related to the theme of the seminar and are accepted by the instructor.

#### Theoretical topics to be discussed in class include:

Liminality and diasporas  
Multidirectional memory  
Religion and identity  
Cultural hybridity  
Migration  
Implicated subjects  
Intergenerational trauma and redress  
Home-away-home  
Microhistory

#### Selected primary sources to be discussed in class:

Boraks-Nemetz, Lillian. "In The Silence of My Heart." L. Boraks-Nemetz, M. Clermont et. al, *Dear Canada: Hoping for Home: Stories of Arrival*. Scholastic Canada 2011, pp. 128-146.  
Cash, Johnny – *Hurt* (music video)  
Goldstone, Gabriele. *Red Stone*. Rebellight 2015, pp. 35-40.  
Goldstone, Gabriele. *Waltraut*, Heritage, 2024.