In the last two decades, we have witnessed crises in global migration, struggles over citizenship and human rights, and the rise of ethno-nationalisms taking place throughout the world. While newer technologies such as social media may change how we learn about and respond to these struggles, debates over individual and national security and global mobility are not, of course, unique to the twenty-first century. It is, however, almost impossible to ignore how these issues touch each of our lives in various ways.

In this course, we will read four novels and a book of poetry that explore questions of displacement, migration, and belonging in relation to contemporary North America and as they connect Canada and the US to other parts of the world. How does contemporary literature ask us to engage with these matters? What are the particular ways in which individuals and collectives made to feel alien, vulnerable or at home within their own bodies, cities, and nation-states? How do we read these stories and poems from a space such as Vancouver, a site that is often praised as a cosmopolitan gateway city despite its long and complicated histories of racialized citizenship and migration and struggles over land and sovereignty.

Reading List:

Hamid, Mohsin. *Exit West*.
Lee, Krys. *How I Became a North Korean*.
Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen*.

Assignments:

First essay (1500 words) 25%
Second Essay (2000-2500 words) 30%
Attendance, Participation, and Tutorial Presentation 20%
Final Examination 25%