**ENG 1002            diaspora literature**

**LITERATURE OF THE DIASPORA—PROFESSOR ELIZABETH STEWART**

This course explores literature about diaspora: “diaspora” as the abandonment of home, whether voluntary or enforced, and a search for a new home, new opportunities, and new beginnings, even as the home of the past lingers in the imagination, in memory and in desire.

The twenty-first century has so far been characterized by massive and often chaotic displacements of peoples seeking refuge from violence, famine, and persecution in their homelands or are simply seeking opportunities for economic survival in an increasingly globalized and politically turbulent world. The twentieth century, the century of totalitarianism and genocide, had already seen seismic shifts in populations fleeing ethnic cleansing, political persecution, and specific events such as WWI and WWII, the Holocaust, African decolonization, the Indian partition, various regime changes, and nation-building. Literature and film in the twentieth and twenty-first century have recorded the histories and fictionalizations of such diasporic experiences. The two oldest and far-reaching global diasporas were the Jewish and the African. Both were painful, both produced flowering cultural expression, and both continue to develop, centuries later, to this day.

**Texts and authors**include: Shakespeare's *The Tempest,*Benjamin Sehene (Rwandan Tutsi exile),  Raoul Peck (Haitian filmmaker), W.G. Sebald, *The Emigrants*(German migration to the US and UK),   Joseph Roth (German Jew), Haim Sabato (Israeli Jew), Julie Otsuka, (Japanese American). **Music:**African American, Afro-Caribbean, Jewish reggae.