

Syllabus

ENG 3404/4304: Post-Colonial Literature, Spring 2013

Dr. Mary Ruth Marotte; email: nrmarotte@uca.edu (best way to catch me!)

Office: 428 Irby; Office hours W 8:00-10:00 am; T/Th 9:15-10:30 am or by appt.

Required Texts to purchase:

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe; *Clear Light of Day*, Anita Desai; *Interpreter of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri; *Midnight's Children*, Salman Rushdie; *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys; *Collected Plays 2*, Wole Soyinka.

Post-Colonial literature is a course that explores ideas of containment, disenfranchisement, place, identity, belonging, exile, and independence, to name a few. The literature that you will study this semester is a literature born out of a historical moment, writings produced in countries profoundly shaped by their interactions with Britain yet also strongly defined against it. We may certainly study this literature for its own sake, but we will ask important questions about these texts regarding authorial and thematic control. How have these authors responded to colonization and the aftermath of occupation? Are these responses embedded within the narrative? How do we read these writers who are so often relegated to the margins of literary discourse? This is a reading and writing intensive course. I take for granted that you are here because you want to explore these issues; therefore, I consider this class a community where we work together to learn as much as possible. You should be prepared to share your opinions and work through your difficulties with each text. Participation is vital!

JANUARY

Th	10	Introduction to course
T	15	Hobson, from <i>Imperialism</i> , in Kucich , 43-49; Seeley, from <i>The Expansion of England</i> , in Kucich , 49-57; Williams, "An Open Letter. . ." in Kucich , 94-105.
Th	17	Leopold II, "Letter from the King. . ." in Kucich , 106-108; Kipling, "The Man Who Would Be King," in Kucich , 152-186.
T	22	Kipling, "Recessional," in Kucich , 325-326; "The White Man's Burden," in Kucich , 326-328. Achebe, "An Image of Africa," in Kucich , 373-385.
Th	24	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Part One
T	29	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Part Two
Th	31	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Part Three

FEBRUARY

T	5	Soyinka, <i>The Lion and the Jewel</i>
Th	7	Soyinka, <i>The Trials of Brother Jero</i>
T	12	Paper I due , Thiong'o, "Decolonising the Mind"
Th	14	Walcott, poems
T	19	Walcott, poems

Th 21 Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism";
Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

T 26 Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Th 28 Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

MARCH

T 5 Desai, *Clear Light of Day*

Th 7 Desai, *Clear Light of Day*

T 12 Desai, *Clear Light of Day*

Th 14 **Paper 2 Due**; Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*

T 19 Spring Break

Th 21 Spring Break

T 26 Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*

Th 28 Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*

APRIL

T 2 "The New Empire Within Britain," Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

Th 4 UCA Graduate Conference

T 9 Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

Th 11 Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

T 16 Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

Th 18 Film—*The Namesake*

T 23 *The Namesake*

Th 25 **Paper 3 due**; *The Namesake*

FINALS- week of April 29-May 3

Grade Distribution:

First Paper: 20%

Second Paper: 20%

Reading Responses: 20%

Final paper: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Papers: I will distribute three or four writing prompts that you may use for your papers. These writing prompts will challenge you to engage with the works that we are covering in the course, how they may or may not coalesce in ideology or theme, how they engage you as a reader, and how they hold up as scholarly works. Your papers should show me that you can both critically and imaginatively engage with the texts and effectively use outside sources to support your ideas. The first paper should be at least 5 pages long, with at least 3 outside sources. Second papers should be at least 7 pages, with at least 5 outside sources. Final papers should be at least 10 pages, with at least 7 outside sources. **Graduate students should write at least 8-10 pages for the first and second papers, with at least 6 sources for the first paper. Final papers for graduate students should be 12-15 pages, with at least 8 outside sources.**

Reading Responses: I will collect reading responses on random days throughout the semester, and your grade will depend upon your thoughtful consideration of the reading for the day. You should respond to the day's assigned readings, working through any difficulties you might have with the reading. These responses are a very important way to prepare to write your papers, and I treat them very seriously. Each entry should be at least one page, typed, double-spaced. Do not do a summary of the reading. Instead, you should analyze what you have read and reflect upon it.

Final Exam: Comprehensive ID/Essay Exam over the semester's readings.

Graduate Students: Obviously I expect more from your analyses of each text, and your contributions both written and verbal should be decidedly more sophisticated than your undergraduate classmates'. Apart from that, I do expect that you prepare and teach a part of a class during the semester. See me as early as possible so that you can select an author and work that interests you.

Attendance: You are allowed four absences this semester. After that, you will be dropped from my class. If and when you are absent, you are solely responsible for the work and information you have missed, and I expect for you to be caught up by the next class. An extended illness would create an exception to these rules: please let me know as soon as possible if you will be missing a significant number of classes due to illness or other long-term problem (i.e. 4 or more).

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism does not refer only to flagrant copying; it includes also the uncredited use of any phrases, quotations, or ideas. Please be sure to cite any outside sources which you use. That said, I will not tolerate cheating in this class. If you are caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating, you will immediately lose two letter grades off your final grade. If the assignment in question a major assignment, you will automatically fail the course.

Conferences: These are difficult texts. If you are unsure about the reading, want feedback on a weekly writing, or would like to talk about a text or idea, please come to my office for a conference. If you can't make it to my office hours, feel free to make an appointment with me.

University Policy and Disabilities: If you have any questions about a university policy, including Academic policies and the Sexual Harassment policy, please see the Student Handbook. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135.