

ENGLISH 2270: WORLD LITERATURE

FALL 2006: *Aug. 23- Dec. 8*

*MWF 10-10:50 * MCD 110*

*Section #1 *** crn #41891*

Instructor: Dr. Karen Hyman

Office & office hours: McDonald 211; MWF 4-5 and by appointment

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This class focuses mainly on fiction and drama by writers from Africa, India, and the Caribbean from the period during which these countries were becoming independent (after WW II) after having spent many decades, even hundreds of years, as colonies of Britain. This type of literature is called “postcolonial literature,” meaning “after colonialism.” It is usually defined as distinct from the settler colonies like the U.S., Australia, and Canada and focuses on those places where colonial rule was imposed on indigenous populations (India, Africa) or on otherwise non-European populations, such as the Caribbean, which is populated by the descendents of Africans brought there as slaves and (East) Indians, Portuguese, and Chinese brought as indentured laborers to work the sugar plantations after British slavery was abolished in 1832-4. Since these places were English colonies, those who went to school learned and wrote in English, so there is no need for translation. Two exceptions to this are the Palestinian poetry, which is in translation (Palestine was a British colony in the early twentieth century but not long enough for English to take hold) and the piece by South African writer Nadine Gordimer (it was also a British colony, but originally Dutch, so not considered a settler colony). The works focus on issues of cultural imperialism, cultural nationalism, development, neo-colonialism, tourism, illegal immigration, and apartheid. Besides the fact that fictive literature is enjoyable for its artistic techniques, these texts are interesting because they offer a window into exotic cultures. They also present a very different worldview and perspective on history than most Americans are aware of. In a world that is increasingly becoming a global village, understanding cultural differences will help facilitate both commercial success as well as international peace.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the bookstore)

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid

Death and the King's Horseman by Wole Soyinka

Jasmine by Bharati Mukherjee

A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid

Also required reading for the course (these are out of print and will be handouts):

Vendor of Sweets by R. K. Narayan

“Beef, No Chicken” by Derek Walcott

“Something Out There” by Nadine Gordimer

Selected Palestinian poetry

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, students should have improved their ability to:

- Enjoy, appreciate, and evaluate representative short stories, poems, plays, novels, and essays.
- Think critically and write about the various readings
- Understand and use in literary analysis the elements of fiction, including plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view
- Understand the use and importance of literary language, including symbols, metaphors, similes, and images in analyzing our readings
- Understand and use in literary analysis poetic devices, including figurative language, sound, and meter
- Share critical insights with class members

GRADING PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Course grades will be determined according the following proportions:

- literary analysis paper (4-5 pages): 15%
- creative piece that connects with of the readings this semester (more on this later) with explanation of literary techniques used: 15%
- Checks on whether you have prepared the assigned reading: these will be both announced and unannounced quizzes, written responses (both in and out of class) and discussion board postings: 20%
- two oral reports (with outline and bibliography) on the historical context of the work under discussion: 20% (10% each)
- midterm exam (identification of quotations, literary terms, and essay): 15%
- final exam (same format as midterm): 15%

In terms of points, the assignments' point value is their percentage plus a zero: so if it is 15% of the grade, it is 150 points. (Thus, the course will have 1000 points total.) The reading checks will be worth 10 points apiece and there will be 20 of them. The grades will be figured according to conventional percentages: A+=100-97, A=96-94, A-=93-90, B+=89-87, B=86-84, B-=82-80, C+=79-77, C=76-74, C-=73-70, D+=69-67, D=66-64, D-=63-60, F=59 and below. Grades will be posted in WebCT. Using the above information, you can figure your grade at any time in the course. Simply divide the number of points you have earned at that particular point in the course by the number of points possible at that particular point, move the decimal two places to the right to find the percentage, and then use the scale above to see what your grade is at that point in time.

PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Using someone else's words or ideas without giving proper credit (this is done by using quotation marks and/or in-text and bibliographic citation) carries heavy penalties: failure for the course, and for repeat offenders, expulsion from the college.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You will need to come to class in order to be successful in this course, since what we do in class is crucial to understanding the material and doing well on the assignments, and many activities such as class discussion and paper workshops cannot be done out of class and/or are not well transmitted by getting the class notes or an explanation of "what we did last time." Simply put, not attending regularly puts your grade—including a passing grade—at risk.

LATE WORK POLICY:

Assignments handed in late will be downgraded one letter grade for every class period missed. The reading checks, whatever form they take, will be assigned as we go along: in-class quizzes cannot be made up, and anything handed in or posted late will be downgraded according to policy. There is no “extra credit” in this class to help bring your grade up at the end of the semester: it would not be fair to the other students. Also, be forewarned that I do not give “Incomplete” as a final grade.

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

It may seem like simple politeness and common sense, but just to make clear and reiterate the normal expectations of classroom behavior: first of all, it’s rude to talk to other students during class when someone else is talking or there’s an assigned activity in progress at which others are still working. If you have a comment or question about the material, please share it with the rest of us—it will clarify and enrich the experience for everyone. Also, turn off and put away cell phones and take off headphones. Reading other material means you are not paying attention, and if you do it, you can anticipate that I will call on you in an effort to re-engage you. Sleeping is effectively absence. Please don’t pack up your materials and/or get up to leave while class is still in the process of wrapping up. I try to stay aware of the time, but if I begin to run over, please bring it to my attention. Coming in late disturbs the class and interferes with instruction, and you might miss important information as well.

On a more positive note, **DO** actively engage with the material and discussion, think about it from various angles, and contribute your insights and/or questions to class discussion. Although it might seem easier to listen passively, you will learn more and find the experience more satisfying if you are personally involved.

Helpful Hint # 6,840,195: keep all your work for this class (the originals with my comments and grade) until after you receive your final grade for the course. I may ask for it at any time.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability and would like accommodations, contact Sherri Dial at the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility and determine the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.

COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

From the Spring Schedule: “A student is registered until officially withdrawn through the registration office and the advisement office. Dropping all classes by phone does not officially withdraw you from the college. If you do not officially withdraw, you will receive an F grade.

If you wish to withdraw, you must do the following:

- 1) Contact the advisement center and complete a withdrawal form
- 2) Surrender student I.D. card.

Note: No withdrawals are allowed after the 12th week of classes. The date of withdrawal will be the date the paperwork is completed. A withdrawal does not affect GPA.”

Also note: “A student receiving federal student aid who withdraws, drops out, or is expelled from school within 60% of the semester may owe a refund to the federal student aid programs.”

See page 10 of your Spring Schedule booklet.

TUTORING:

There is tutoring help available at the Writing Center in the lower level of Browning Resource Center (BRC). Check it out for hours and availability of tutors. There is also OWL, the Online Writing Lab, at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/owl/>.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

Hours are generally

Monday - Thursday	8:00am - 10:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday	3:00pm - 8:00pm
Holidays*	Closed

Library phone numbers: Reference: 652-7714 option 2; Circulation: 652-7714 option 3;
Computer Lab: 652-7630

OCT.	Oct.23: <i>Jasmine</i> , chps. 8-12.	Oct.25: <i>Jasmine</i> , chps. 13-16.	Oct.27: <i>Jasmine</i> , chps. 17 (rape & murder)-19. ASSIGN SECOND PAPER.
OCT/NOV	Oct.30: <i>Jasmine</i> chps. 20-23.	Nov.1: <i>Jasmine</i> , chps. 24-25.	Nov.3: <i>Jasmine</i> chps. 26-end.
NOV.	Nov.6: <i>A Small Place</i> pp. 1-37.	Nov.8: <i>A Small Place</i> pp 41-81.	Nov.10: Notes on poetry. Palestinian poetry (handout).
NOV.	Nov.13: <i>Beef, No Chicken</i> (handout), pp. 105-140.	Nov.15: <i>Beef, No Chicken</i> pp. 140-172.	Nov.17: <i>Beef, No Chicken</i> pp.140-172.
NOV.	Nov.20: ROUGH DRAFT OF CREATIVE PAPER DUE. PEER FEEDBACK.	Nov.22: NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING.	Nov.24: NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING.
NOV/DEC	Nov.27: <i>Something Out There</i> pp.118-139.	Nov.29: <i>Something Out There</i> , pp. 139-160.	Dec.1: <i>Something Out There</i> , pp. 160-182.
DEC.	Dec.4: <i>Something Out There</i> , pp.182-203 (end). SECOND PAPER DUE.	Dec.6: Catch-up, literature post-test, course evals.	Dec.8: Review for final.
DEC.		FINAL TBA	<i>Happy Holidays!</i>

