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ENG 5061-001: Literature of Empire

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The political and cultural realities of our contemporary world continue to be influenced by the legacy of empire: Imperialism has indelibly marked the consciousness of former masters and former subjects. As Great Britain, the most extensive of modern empires, acquired, controlled, and finally relinquished vast dominions, many British writers took for theme expatriation and exile, empire or its loss. In this course we will read important colonial and post-colonial fiction by English authors; we will also read major works by novelists from lands once subject to English power. Focusing on fiction by such writers as Conrad, Scott (The Jewel in the Crown), Joyce Cary, and Lawrence Durrell, as well as by non-Europeans such as Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Th’iongo, Salman Rushdie, and V.S. Naipaul, we will explore questions of narrative technique and the ideology of the text.

TEXTS: Achebe, Things Fall Apart; Cary, Mister Johnson; Conrad, Lord Jim; Durrell, Mountolive; Greene, The Quiet American; Kipling, Two Tales; Naipaul, The Mimic Men; Ngugi, A Grain of Wheat; Rushdie, Midnight’s Children; Scott, The Jewel in the Crown (Suggested Text: MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, latest ed.)

ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK I
June 9: Introduction to course & assignments; introduction to Rudyard Kipling and "The Man Who Would Be King"
June 10: Kipling, Two Tales
June 11: Conrad, Lord Jim (Read first section for today.)
June 12: Lord Jim

WEEK II
June 16: Lord Jim continued
Report: ____________________________
June 17: Lord Jim concluded
[Heart of Darkness]
June 18: Cary, Mister Johnson (Read at least first third of book.)
June 19: Mister Johnson

WEEK III
June 23: Mister Johnson
Report: ____________________________
June 24: Achebe, Things Fall Apart
June 25: Achebe, Things Fall Apart
Report: ____________________________
June 26: Begin Ngugi, A Grain of Wheat

WEEK IV
June 30: A Grain of Wheat
Report: ____________________________
July 1: A Grain of Wheat
July 2: Mid-Term Exam (Please bring Exam Booklets to class.)
July 3: No Class--Independence Day holiday

WEEK V
July 7: Begin Scott: The Jewel in the Crown
Paper I due for those writing on Conrad, Cary, Achebe, Ngugi
[Paper I due by presentation date for those writing on Scott, Rushdie, Durrell, or Naipaul]
July 8: *The Jewel in the Crown*
July 9: *The Jewel in the Crown*
   Report[s]: ____________________________
July 10: *The Jewel in the Crown* concluded
   Report: ____________________________

WEEK VI

July 14: Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
   Prospectus (250 words; typed) for Paper II due in class.
July 15: *Midnight's Children*
   Report[s]: ____________________________
July 16: *Midnight's Children*
   Report: ____________________________
July 17: *Midnight's Children* concluded

WEEK VII

July 21: Durrell, *Mountolive*
July 22: *Mountolive*
   Report[s]: ____________________________
July 23: *Mountolive*
July 24: *Mountolive* concluded
   [Greene, *The Quiet American* optional; bring book to class.]
   Paper II may be submitted in class today.

   [July 25: *Paper II due in my mailbox by noon today. (Keep copies of all papers.*)]

WEEK VIII

July 28: Naipaul, *The Mimic Men*
July 29: *The Mimic Men*
   Report[s]: ____________________________
July 30: *The Mimic Men*
   CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: August_____________________

GRADE: Paper I/Report I--15%; Mid-Term Exam--15%; Final Exam--20%; Paper II (including Prospectus)--25%; Preparation/Participation--25%

ORAL PRESENTATIONS: During the term, each student will present an oral report (10 to 15 minutes) on one of the assigned texts. In preparing the report, select some specific aspect of theme or narrative technique to examine within the chosen work. You may concentrate on background--a historical or political event or issue that interested or puzzled you--or on narrational or literary technique. You may refer to criticism as you wish, but a survey or summary of critical opinion will not meet the purpose of the assignment. Bring your own critical intelligence to bear on the work; give us the benefit of your own insights. It may be enlightening to consult background works: history, autobiography, letters, etc. (Any sources that you use should be mentioned by name in the report and/or listed on the blackboard; be sure to communicate clearly to the class the source of all information and opinions.)

PAPER I: The first paper is a three to five-page (typed/double-spaced) essay treating the specific aspect of an assigned text presented in your oral report. The paper is the written "version" of your class presentation; the text should not however be identical to what you say in class. The paper is a polished written discussion of the specific theme or technique or concern that you talk about for the benefit of the class. Papers on books read before 4 July are due 7 July; others are due on the day of the class presentation.
ENGLISH 5061 ASSIGNMENTS CONTINUED

PAPER II: Paper II, due by noon Friday, 25 July is a critical study of 10 to 12 typed double-spaced pages tracing a specific aspect of imperialism and/or inter-cultural encounter in two works of twentieth-century fiction in English. You may write on two works that are assigned for the course; If you wish you may write on one assigned book and one "outside" book chosen in consultation with me.

Be sure to focus your topic; you may take a political or psychological approach, or you may approach theme through an examination of narrative technique. The paper's bibliography should include several carefully chosen secondary works (theory; historical or political background; essays or other "non-fiction" by the authors studied; or, critical works). A written prospectus (250 words) is due July 14. The prospectus should identify primary texts and explain the basis of your choice of these works to compare and/or contrast. It should indicate your approach, focus, and critical methodology. Please arrange a conference with me to discuss your research plans. (See course policy statement for details on presentation of papers.)

ENGLISH 5061--COURSE POLICIES

Class attendance, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and all announcements or assignments made in class as well as for all assignments on the syllabus. In addition to fulfilling specified assignments, graduate students are expected to work independently and to do outside reading related to the material of the course.

Oral Reports must be presented on the assigned date. Papers and other written work must be handed in on the date due. BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. IN THE CASE OF A MISSING PAPER, THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY.

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be typed or computer-generated (double-spaced) on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Papers must be typed or printed in clear, dark, letter-quality print; continuous-form sheets must be separated and edges removed; pages must be numbered and arranged in order. There should be adequate margins. Each paper must have a separate title sheet that includes the title of the paper, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and date of submission. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the new MLA system to cite both primary and secondary sources used in your papers. The new system is fully explained and illustrated in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 3rd ed. Each student should have access to a copy of the latest edition of the MLA Handbook. Remember that all electronically gathered materials must be documented as accurately as if they were print materials. For help with the latest conventions, go to the Writing Center and/or consult with expert classmates who work or have worked in that very Center. An important principle: downloading is not research. All information, insight, and ideas must be digested, transformed by your own thinking.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Please make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of F for the course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accomodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6563) as soon as possible."