

Spring 1-15-2010

ENG 2850-001: Postcolonial Literatures in English

Jyoti Panjwani
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2850: Postcolonial Literatures in English
Spring 2010

Jyoti Panjwani
 Office: Ch 3576
 Phone: 581-3615, e-mail: jpanjwani@eiu.edu
 Office hrs: MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and by appointment

Course Description:

This course will be a study of 20th century narratives by authors from India, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Egypt who have defined themselves *with* and *against* European cultures, in particular the British culture, in order to understand the psychological and emotional make-up of postcolonial characters within a framework, which may be labeled as the 'memory of the past.' Through an in-depth analysis of issues pertaining to nationalist struggles for political and gender freedoms, notions of 'home' and 'homelands,' indigenous traditions and westernization, transnational and inter-cultural circulation of themes and responses, and normative gender roles and identities, we will theorize the multifarious configurations of the postcolonial mind contextualized by the cultural and socio-political past of colonial and pre-colonial times as remembered by postcolonial literati. The writers included in this course are R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy, Girish Karnad, Chinua Achebe, Thiong'o wa Ngugi, Okot p'Bitek, Nawaal El Saadawi, Tayeb Salih, and Naguib Mahfouz. Course requirements will include mid-term and final exams, one research paper and active preparation and class participation.

Course Requirements:

One mid-term exam: 25%
 One final exam: 25%
 One research paper, 5-6 pages: 35%
 Active Preparation and Class Participation: 15%

Texts Required:

Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*
 Girish Karnad. *Hayavadana*
 Naguib Mahfouz. *Midaq Alley*
 Thomas Mann. *The Transposed Heads*
 R.K. Narayan. *The Guide*
 Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol*
 Nawaal El-Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*
 Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*
 Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *Weep Not, Child*
 Heinrich Zimmer (Trans.) *The King and the Corpse*

Optional Readings:

Stephen Altar and Wimal Dissanayake (eds.). *The Penguin Book of Modern Indian Short Stories*

Geeta Dharaarajan (ed.). *Separate Journeys: Short Stories by Contemporary Indian Women*

Mohandas K Gandhi. *Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*

Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*

Course Policies:

The course format will be informal lecture and exploratory discussion. Class participation, therefore, will be a significant component of this course. Your presence in the class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Each unexcused absence will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances will equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade; an 'A' essay due on Friday will be an 'F' by next Thursday.

Plagiarism Policy (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 own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Information for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Syllabus**Week 1**

1/12 – Introduction to the Course

Segment 1: Notions of ‘Home’ and Homeland: Traditions and Postcoloniality

1//14 – Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*

Week 2

1/19 – continued

1/21 – continued

Week 3

1/26 – R.K. Narayan. *The Guide*

1/28 – continued

Week 4

2/2 – continued, Naguib Mahfouz. *Midaq Alley*

2/4 – continued

Segment 2: Gender Roles, Identities, and Freedoms

Week 5

2/9 – continued, Nawal El Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*

2/11 – continued

Week 6

2/16 – continued

2/18 – Review for the Midterm Exam

Week 7

2/23 – Midterm Exam

2/25 – Okot p'Bitek. *Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol*

Week 8

3/2 – continued

Segment 3: Nationalism and Trans-cultural Circulation of Themes and Responses

3/4– continued, Zimmer. *The King and the Corpse* (p. 210)

Week 9

3/9 – Thomas Mann. *The Transposed Heads*

3/11– continued, Girish Karnad. *Hayavadana* (in *Three Plays*)

Week 10

3/23- continued

3/25- continued

Week 11

3/30- Conferences for the research paper

4/1- continued

Week 12

4/6- continued

4/8- continued

Week 13

4/13 – Research paper due at the beginning of the class, Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*

4/15- continued

Week 14

4/20- continued, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *Weep Not Child*

4/22- continued

Week 15

4/27- continued

4/29- Review for the Final Exam