ENG 2850-002-003: Post-Colonial Literatures

Zahlan
Eastern Illinois University

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ENGLISH 2850: POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE
Fall 1997
Section 2: T/R 1100, CH337
Section 3: T/R 1230, CH337

Dr. Zahlan
Office: 316E Coleman
Telephone: 581-6977

The course is intended to enable students to begin to establish familiarity with diverse literatures of the world—to move beyond the Western canon to read, understand, and enjoy poetry, prose, and drama created in and reflective of diverse cultures. To varying degrees, the works we will read have been produced by interactions between European culture and the indigenous traditions of Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean; some have been translated but many were written originally in English. In learning to appreciate "non-Western" literature, we will enrich our understanding of the "Western" tradition. We will strive to learn about a number of important authors from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, to develop an understanding of cultures other than our own, and to enhance our appreciation of language and literature.

TEXTS
Clerk and Siegel, eds., Modern Literatures of the Non-Western World (C&S); Achebe, Things Fall Apart; Conrad, Heart of Darkness; Kipling, Two Tales; Naipaul, A Bend in the River

(Each student should also have a Handbook of usage and a collegiate desk dictionary.)

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
WEEK I--INTRODUCTIONS/INDIA
Tuesday, 26 August: Introductions: Class, Course, Assignments
Thursday, 28 August: Kipling, "The Man Who Would Be King," Two Tales

WEEK II--INDIAN SUBCONTINENT
Tuesday, 2 September: Tagore, "Where the Mind Is Without Fear," C&S 216.


WEEK III--INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Assignment of Paper I

WEEK IV--INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA
Tuesday, 16 September: Obeyesekere, "Despair," C&S 337ff.


WEEK V--PAKISTAN

Thursday, 25 September: MAJOR TEST I--Bring Test Booklets to Class.

WEEK VI--THE ARAB WORLD
Tuesday, 30 September: Introduction to "The Middle East," C&S 417ff.
Haqqi, "The Tavern Keeper," C&S 531-533
Mahfouz, "Half a Day," C&S 536-539

Baraduni, "Answers to One Question," C&S 458-59

Thursday, 2 October: Khudayyir, "Clocks Like Horses," C&S 466ff.
WEEK VII--THE ARAB WORLD

Tuesday,  7 October:  Idris, "The Chair Carrier," C&S 608-612
Kanafani, "The Slave Fort," C&S 479-482
Abd al-Wali, "Abu Rubbiya," 492-96

Thursday,  9 October:  Al-Maqalih, "Sana Is Hungry," C&S 480
Darwish, "Guests on the Sea," C&S 503-505
Kanafani and Abd al-Wali continued--reread the stories.

WEEK VIII--THE ARAB WORLD

Tuesday, 14 October:  Paper I due in class on this date.
Be prepared to share your paper with the class--peer review.
Tuqan, "Song of Becoming," C&S 435-36
Adnan, "In the Heart of Another Country," C&S 450ff.
Abu Khalid, "A Pearl," C&S 508

Thursday, 16 October:  NO CLASS MEETING (Dr. Z at WLA):  Work on paper revisions and
Prospectus for Paper II.

WEEK IX--THE ARAB WORLD/AFRICA

Tuesday, 21 October:  El Saadawi, "She Has No Place in Paradise," C&S 637ff.
Paper I revisions due in class today.

Thursday, 23 October:  Introduction to "Africa," C&S 521-525
Senghor, "Prayer to Masks," C&S 534-536
Rabearivelo, "Flute Players," C&S 529-30
Achebe, Things Fall Apart (Read seven chapters for today.)

WEEK X--AFRICA

Tuesday, 28 October:  Things Fall Apart--Complete novel for today.
Thursday, 30 October:  Things Fall Apart concluded
Read assigned passages in Heart of Darkness.

WEEK XI--AFRICA

Sutherland, "New Life at Kyerefaso," C&S 589ff.

Ogot, "The Rains Came," C&S 628ff.

WEEK XII--AFRICA

Thursday, 13 November:  "The Strong Breed" continued
Prospectus for Paper II due in class.

WEEK XIII--AFRICA

Tuesday, 18 November:  Head, "The Collector of Treasures," C&S

Thursday, 20 November:  MAJOR TEST II--Bring Test Booklets to class.

WEEK XIV--THANKSGIVING

(Read A Bend in the River)

WEEK XV--AFRICA/A BEND IN THE RIVER

Thursday,  4 December:  "The Island" concluded; A Bend in the River

WEEK XVI--A BEND IN THE RIVER

Tuesday,  9 December:  Naipaul, A Bend in the River (have book read by this date.)
Thursday, 11 December:  A Bend in the River concluded

PAPER II DUE IN CLASS

Farewells

Cumulative Final Exam:________________________ (Please bring Test Booklets.)

GRADE CALCULATION

Major Test I=10%; Major Test II=10%; Paper I--15%;
Paper II (including Prospectus)--25%; Final Exam--15%;
Class Preparation and Participation (including quizzes & presentations)--25%
FALL 1997

COURSE POLICIES—ENGLISH 2850 & 2011C 

DR. ZAHLAN

Class attendance, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. Unless it is otherwise indicated, works should be read by the first class period for which they are assigned according to the syllabus. 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. Daily preparation and participation in class discussion are important and will count significantly in the final course grade. (Students who are not present cannot participate; therefore, credit for participation is predicated on attendance.)

JOURNAL: Each student in the class should keep a separate notebook or journal in which you write both initial and considered responses to reading assignments and class discussion. From time to time, you will be asked to write written responses in class, and you should insert them into your journal when they are returned. Additionally, you should keep a list of terms and other words you wish to add to your vocabulary.

ORAL REPORTS: If Oral Reports are assigned, they must be presented on the assigned date. Failure to give reports on assigned date will result in a grade of "0."

PAPERS: ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the due date. Papers may be accepted late WITH PRIOR PERMISSION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ONLY; however, late penalties will be assessed—usually 5 points per day (per day, not per class period) even if permission to turn a paper in late has been obtained before the due date. 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.

EXAMS: Bring test booklets to all exams.

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be typed (double-spaced) on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Computer print-outs are acceptable subject to the following stipulations: print must be dark (a new ribbon) and letter-quality or near-letter-quality; continuous-form sheets must be separated and edges removed; pages must be numbered and clipped or stapled together 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 MLA system to cite both primary and secondary sources used in your papers. Provide yourself with a copy of the most recent edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Take questions to the Writing Center.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA: Please keep in mind that electronic media materials must be documented as conscientiously and accurately as any other material. Be aware also that it is important to ascertain the authority, reliability, accuracy of all materials and that it may be particularly difficult to do so in the case of electronic media. Be sure that you evaluate as well as indicate the source of information and that you process material from electronic sources as critically and creatively as you do books that you read and then use in writing your own essays and reports: DOWNLOADING IS NOT RESEARCH. Documentation conventions are in flux; check the Writing Center.

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 DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accomodations, please note that arrangements must be made through the Office of Disability Services; you should, therefore, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.