Fall 8-15-2015

ENG 4850-001: Postcolonial & Third World Lit

Dagni Bredesen

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2015

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2015/87

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2015 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2015 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class considers many issues that pertain to the term “Third World Literature” by way of a focused investigation of South African narratives and negotiations. Most of what we will read and discuss has been produced since 1994, that is, after the overthrow of a system of legislated racism known as “apartheid.” Following an introductory couple of weeks where we will probe the mind of British colonialism in South Africa through an adventure story and excerpts from sensational journalism and a woman explorer’s memoir, we will take a planned dive into the year 1993 and attempt to reproduce the negotiations that led up to the first democratic elections with each student taking on an assigned role. This plunge into the past will prepare us for the novels and films we will examine in second half of the semester.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is intended to help students gain familiarity with diverse literatures of the world--to move beyond the Western canon to read, understand, and enjoy texts produced in and reflective of diverse cultures. English 4850 is a writing-intensive course, intended to enable motivated students improve their written expression, as well as reading comprehension, critical thinking, and oral expression.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- Written Communication 50%
  - Includes 3-four page essays, and a final 8 page research-based paper (graduate students 10-12pp).
- RTTP Participation 15%
- Oral Communication 25%
  - Includes 2 presentations (1 group/1 individual) and In-class participation.
  *If you have reservations about either please see me.
- Online Engagement 15%
**TEXTS:** Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*
Clark & Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*
Coetzee, J.M. *Disgrace*
Haggard, H. Rider. *King’s Solomon’s Mines*
Krog, Antjie. *Country of My Skull*
Matlwa, Kopano. *Coconut*
Mda, Zakes. *Madonna of Excelsior*
Wicomb, Zoë. *Playing in the Light* or Marlene van Niekerk’s *Triomf*

**Handouts and readings on D2L**

**Course Schedule:** Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change.

**Week 1 Orientations**

**Tu (8/25)**
- Introductions to class, to each other, to the subject and our first novel. Intro to *King Solomon’s Mines* – read dedication and discuss.
- Homework (HMWK): For next class please read:
  - Haggard’s *King Solomon’s Mines* up to and including chapter V (and bring KSM to class)
  - Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*
    - “African American and post-colonial studies”
    - “Colonialism”
    - “Empire”
    - “Exploration and Travel”

**Th (8/27):**

**The Lay of the Land: Africa’s Dark Continent as Virgin Territory.**

“Reading” of Jan van der Straet’s etching *America.*

HMWK: For Tuesday’s class please read:
- Haggard, to chapter XV
- *Poco Key Concepts:*
  - “Imperialism”
  - “Cartography”
  - “Savage/Civilized”

**Week 2 “Dark Continent”**

**Tu (9/01)**
- Discuss assigned readings. Introduce idea of the female intermediary
- Excerpts from Henry Morton Stanley and Mary Kingsley
- HMWK: Finish *King’s Solomon’s Mines* (chapters XVI-XX)
- *Key Concepts:*
  - “Aboriginal/Indigenous Peoples”
  - “Binarism”

**Th (9/03) The Female Intermediary or, Pocohantas and her African sisters**
- Discuss *KSM Conclusion/ Map Exercise*
- *Key Concepts:*
  - “Contrapuntal Reading”
  - “Colonial Desire”
  - “Miscegenation”
- HMWK: Read Clark & Worger, pp3-31

**Weeks 3 The Deep Dive ~ April 1993**

**Tu (9/08)**
- Discuss Assigned Readings
- HMWK: Clark & Worger, 35-61, 123-137 and hand-outs

**Th (9/10)**
- Discuss Assigned Readings HMWK: Clark & Worger, 62-101, Packet and selected documents (D2L)
Weeks 4 - 6 Reacting to the Past: The Collapse of Apartheid and the Dawn of Democracy in South Africa

Week 7
Tu (10/06)  Debriefing or Midterm
Th (10/08)  Debriefing. Introduction to Madonna of Excelsior (ME)

Week 8
Tu (10/13)  ME
Th (10/15)  ME

Week 9
Tu (10/20) Finish Discussion of ME Introduction to Triomf and Playing in the Light (Choose One)
Th (10/22) Reading Day — No Class
Fr (10/23) Madonna of Excelsior Paper Due by 10 pm submit to D2L

Week 10
Tu (10/27)  Reading Groups
Th (10/29)  Reading Groups

Week 11
Tu (11/03)  Reading Groups
Th (11/05)  Group Presentations 30” each

Week 12
Tu (11/10) In-class viewing Long Night’s Journey Into Day
               Start reading excerpts Country of My Skull (CMS)
Th (11/12)  Discussion LNJD and CMS

Week 13
Tu (11/17)  CMS Introduction to Disgrace
Th (11/19)  Disgrace

Thanksgiving Break 11/23-27 ~ No class
Finish reading Disgrace over break and if possible start Coconut

Week 14
Tu (12/01): Disgrace Introduction to Coconut
Th (12/03): Coconut

Week 15
(12/08)  Coconut
(12/10)  Coconut

Final Examination: Thurs. May 7 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, 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.