Fall 8-15-2014

ENG 5061-001: Postcolonial and Post-Colonial: Time, Space, and Memory

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English 5061: Postcolonial and Post-Colonial: Time, Space, and Memory
Fall 2014

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Office hours: TR 10:45-11:45 a.m., 3:15-4:15 p.m. and W 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Course Description:

This course will be an exploration of gaps and lags between postcolonial and post-colonial delineated by time, colonial and pre-colonial, and geographical spaces—private and public, colonizing and colonizer’s, and the endeavor of memory or forgetfulness, or an arrangement of the two, in overcoming them. Consequently, many of the texts studied in the course will be autobiographical, semi-autobiographical, or biographical. Some of the questions we will discuss contain: Why and how is the past structurally and thematically entwined with the present? How do geographical spaces empower or disempower and/or ‘other’ the postcolonial subjects along gender lines? What are the consequences of this empowerment or disempowerment and ‘othering’ in the global context? What differentiates the postcolonial from post-colonial? How does ‘memory of the past’ attempt to counter the epistemic aggression of colonial enterprise geared towards its erasure? Finally, do time, space, and memory come between or connect the postcolonial and post-colonial?

Course Requirements:

Active preparation and class-participation – 15%
Midterm response paper, 8-10 pages– 30%
Final research paper, 15-20 pages– 40%
One class presentation– 15%

Text Required:

Ama Ata Aidoo. “No Sweetness Here” (on e-reserve)
Chinua Achebe. Hopes and Impediments: Selected Essays (on e-reserve)
---. Morning Yet on Creation Day: Essays (on e-reserve)
---. Things Fall Apart
Partha Chatterjee. The Nation and its Fragments; Colonial and Postcolonial Histories (on e-reserve)
---.“The Nationalist Resolution of the Women’s Question” (on e-reserve)
Frantz Fanon. Black Skin, White Masks (on e-reserve)
Bessie Head. “The Collector of Treasures” (on e-reserve)
Girish Karnad. Hayavadana (in Three Plays)
Ketu Katrak. Politics of the Female Body: Postcolonial Women Writers of the Third World (on e-reserve)
Naguib Mahfouz. Midaq Alley
Thomas Mann. *The Transposed Heads*
Okot p’Bitek. *Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol*
Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*
Nawaal El-Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*
Edward Said. *Orientalism.* (on e-reserve)
Tayeb Salih. *Season of Migration to the North*
Ngugi Wa Thiong’o. *Decolonizing the Mind* (on e-reserve)
---. *Weep Not, Child*
Heinrich Zimmer (Trans.) *The King and the Corpse*

**Course Policies:**

Discussion (participation) is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. 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, of 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.

**Academic integrity:**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Information for Students with Disabilities:**

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

**The Student Success Center:**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.
Tentative Syllabus:

Week 1

8/27 – Introduction to the Course

Segment 1: ‘Home’ and Homeland: Traditions, Colonialism and Postcolonialism/Post-Colonialism

Week 2

9/3 – Chinua Achebe’s Morning Yet on Creation Day (material on e-reserve), Hopes and Impediments (material on e-reserve), and Things Fall Apart

Week 3

9/10 – continued, Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature (material on e-reserve) and Weep Not, Child

Week 4

9/17 – continued, Edward Said’s Orientalism (material on e-reserve) and Tayeb Salih’s Season of Migration to the North

Week 5

9/24 – continued, Partha Chatterjee’s The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories (material on e-reserve), R.K. Narayan’s The Guide

Week 6

10/1 – continued, Naquib Mahfouz’s Miday Alley

Segment 2: Gender Roles, Identities, and Freedoms

Week 7

10/8 – continued, Midterm response Paper due, Frantz Fanon’s Black Skin, White Masks (material on e-reserve), Okot p’Bitek’s Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol

Week 8
10/15 – continued, Ketu Katrak’s *Politics of the Female Body: Postcolonial Women Writers of the Third World* (on e-reserve), Bessie Head’s “The Collector of Treasures” and Ama Ata Aidoo’s “No Sweetness Here” (materials on e-reserve)

**Week 9**

10/22– continued, Partha Chatterjee’s “The Nationalist Resolution of the Women’s Question” (material on e-reserve) and Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*

**Week 10**

10/29- continued, Nawaal El Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero*

**Week 11**

11/5- continued

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

**Week 12**

11/12- Heinrich Zimmer’s (trans.) *The King and the Corpse* and Thomas Mann’s *The Transposed Heads*

**Week 13**

11/19- Girish Karnad’s *Hayavadana*, conferences for research paper and class presentation

**Week 14**

12/3- Popati Hiranandani’s *The Pages of My Life: Autobiography and Selected Stories*, class presentations

**Week 15**

12/10- Final research paper due, review: theorizing post-colonialism