ENG 4850-001: Studies in Third-World Literature

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ENGLISH 4850: Studies in Third-World Literature

Fall 2004
TR 1230-1345
CH 3609

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Fictions of Resistance

Course Objectives

In face of the most terrible pressures and the most seductive temptations, there are always those who "resist" attempts to force them to serve a power in which they don't believe. The people of southern hemisphere societies have with notable regularity been compelled to express themselves in languages not their own, to work or serve as soldiers against their wills, to marry or submit sexually contrary to their own desires. In this course we will read, discuss, and write about literary texts from the past fifty years that recount or embody acts or attitudes of resistance. As we will discover, resistance—political, military, or cultural— is a prominent and significant theme in the literature of the non-western world.

The course is intended to help students begin to establish 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. It should also help those who plan to be teachers prepare themselves to develop multicultural curricula and to deal confidently with students of non-European background.

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. (Written expression will be an important basis of evaluation.)

Texts

Achebe, Anthills of the Savannah; Allende, Of Love and Shadows;
Dharmarajan, ed. Separate Journeys; Fugard, Kani, and Ntshona, Statements;
Gordimer, My Son's Story; Khalifeh, Wild Thorns;
Rushdie, Midnight's Children; El-Saadawi, Woman at Point Zero;
Yehoshua, The Liberated Bride.

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

Dr. Z's Office Hours:

Course Assignments

WEEK I

Tuesday, 24 August: Introduction and Assignments

WEEK II


WEEK III

Tuesday, 7 September: Nawal El-Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero* (Read the book for today.)
Thursday, 9 September: *Woman at Point Zero* (concluded)

WEEK IV

Tuesday, 14 September: Isabel Allende, *Of Love and Shadows*: Read Parts One and Two
Thursday, 16 September: *Of Love and Shadows* (Complete the novel for today.)

WEEK V

Tuesday, 21 September: *Of Love and Shadows*
Thursday, 23 September: Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (as assigned)

WEEK VI

Tuesday, 28 September: *Midnight's Children*
Thursday, 30 September: *Midnight's Children*

WEEK VII

Tuesday, 5 October: *Mid-Term Exam* (Bring exam booklets to class.)
Thursday, 7 October: Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona, “The Island,” *Statements* 45 ff. (Read the play for today.)

WEEK VIII

Tuesday, 12 October: *The Island* (concluded)
Thursday, 14 October: Paper I: typed, polished, documented draft due in class.

Paper Workshop (Be sure to store your paper on a diskette and/or to make two copies: the workshop copy will be marked up in class.)

Assignment of Paper II (Prospectus due 9 November)

[Friday, 15 October: Late penalties begin for papers by any student who did not participate in the workshop.]

WEEK IX

Tuesday, 19 October: Sahar Khalifeh, *Wild Thorns*

Revised Paper I due in class (for students who participated in the workshop) (Hand in draft with editorial marks and evidence of revision, Peer Evaluation sheet, and your revised paper to be graded.) Sign up for conferences.

Thursday, 21 October: No class meeting: Dr. Z attending a professional conference.

Reading and Research Day: Work on *Wild Thorns* and on Library Research for Paper II

WEEK X

Tuesday, 26 October: Khalifeh, *Wild Thorns* (Complete the novel for today.)
Thursday, 28 October: *Wild Thorns*

WEEK XI

Tuesday, 2 November: Achebe, *Anthills of the Savannah*. (Read through page 109.)
Thursday, 4 November: Chinua Achebe, *Anthills of the Savannah*

WEEK XII

Tuesday, 9 November: *Anthills of the Savannah* (Complete the book for today.)

Thursday, 11 November: *Anthills of the Savannah* (concluded)

Gordimer, My Son’s Story. (Read pages 1-62 for today.)

Prospectus for Paper II due in class; Sign up for conferences.
WEEK XIII
Tuesday, 16 November: Nadine Gordimer, *My Son's Story* (Read the novel for today.)
Discussion of Prospectuses; Reports scheduled

Thursday, 18 November: *My Son's Story*
Paper II (polished, “typed,” and documented) due for comments on this date (optional)

WEEK XIV
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS MEETINGS

WEEK XV
Tuesday, 30 November: *My Son's Story*
Thursday, 2 December: Research Paper Presentations as Scheduled
(Student\s are required to attend all presentations by classmates in order to receive full credit on their own presentations; no make-ups will be possible.)

WEEK XVI
Tuesday, 7 December: Paper II due in class on this date.
Research Paper Presentations as scheduled
Thursday, 9 December: Research Paper Presentations scheduled
FINAL EXAM REVIEW SHEETS

FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE) ____________________________________________________________

(Bring test booklets to your final exam.)

GRADE CALCULATION
Participation and Daily Preparation (including quizzes and daily oral presentations): 30%
Mid-Term Exam: 10%; Cumulative Final Exam: 20%
Paper I: 10%; Paper II (including Prospectus): 25%
Research Paper Oral Presentations--5%

COURSE JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT
Keep a separate notebook or journal in which you write your responses to reading assignments and class discussion. For each work that we read, please identify in your journal those issues of power, domination, oppression, and resistance that you see in the text and your own thoughts about them. Identify also attitudes to the issues—the social and political views expressed in the text. In your journal, also take notes on your background reading in history, political science, and current events. From time to time, you will be asked to write responses in class, and you should add them into your journal when they are returned. You will find a journal very useful in reviewing for exams and in planning your papers and oral presentations. I will not collect or grade journals.

PAPER I ASSIGNMENT
PAPER I (800-1000 words/ 3 to 4 computer-printed or typed double-spaced pages) is due on 14 October. Paper I is an essay analyzing the literary treatment of some specific issue of power, domination, oppression, or resistance in any one or two works assigned for the course. As appropriate, you may refer to other works (literary or non-fictional) by the author you are discussing, historical background works, or works of political or social theory.
**Paper I Assignment continued:** In this and all papers, be sure to credit ideas and phrasing that you use in your analysis. Be sure to quote accurately, indicate all quotes and paraphrases, and document accurately (use the MLA system). Inform yourself about documentation conventions for electronic-media information and materials. All such materials must be documented, and citation forms are illustrated in recent handbooks; go to the Writing Center for assistance. Electronic-media materials must be evaluated for quality and reliability even more scrupulously than print materials. Please remember that you must absorb and process all materials: downloading is not research.

**PAPER II ASSIGNMENT**

PAPER II, due Tuesday, 7 December is a researched analytical study (1200--2500 words) discussing some specific aspect of the representation and treatment of resistance to domination in two or three works of literature, at least two of which must be written by authors born or resident in countries of the southern hemisphere. One work must be chosen from among those assigned for the course, and one must be a text not discussed in class. Both the works discussed and the specific focus of the paper will be determined by each student in consultation with me. Topics must be approved.

A prospectus (one or two fully-developed paragraphs [5 to 7 sentences each], typed and double-spaced) is due on 11 November. The prospectus should clearly identify the issue to be discussed, the approach to be taken, and the point of view to be argued; it should also indicate the literary works and works of background research that will be referred to in the paper.

**RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION:** During the last two weeks of the semester, each student will present the material of his/her final research paper, according to an assigned schedule. The presentation should be carefully timed to last 10 minutes.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE,** punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. You are presumed to be professionals-in-training responsible for attending class regularly and participating in discussion. In order to deal with unforeseen emergencies, you are allowed to miss up to the equivalent of one week of class without documented excuse. Any additional absences will, however, be penalized at a rate of one letter grade per two class meetings; any student who is absent for more than eight classes (equivalent of four weeks) will earn a grade of F for the course.

**ASSIGNMENTS** are to have been completed by class time on the date for which they appear on the syllabus. The book(s) in which the day's assignments are contained should be brought to class. Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. There will be no opportunity to make up missed quizzes or in-class writing assignments. Students are responsible for material covered in class and announcements or assignments made in class as well as for assignments on the syllabus.

**MAJOR TESTS AND EXAMS** should be written on test booklets, available at the Union Book Store. Please write tests in ink and on the appropriate booklets. Announced tests and exams must be taken at the scheduled time. Except in cases of DOCUMENTED emergency or official university absence arranged ahead of time, there will be no opportunity to make up mid-term or final exams!
Course Policies continued:

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted. Any work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day (not per class meeting) of lateness. Additionally, late submission may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until semester's end. 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.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be "typed" or computer-generated (double-spaced) on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Computer print-outs must be "letter quality," 12-point size, clear, and dark—no pale print will be accepted. Leave adequate margins. Each paper should have a separate title sheet which includes the title of the paper, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and submission date. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped, and pages numbered.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the MLA system to cite all primary and secondary sources used in preparation of your papers. Also, be sure to introduce sources in your text. Each student should have access to the latest edition of The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, and to a handbook of usage and mechanics.

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 necessary 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 to evaluate and clearly identify any source of information, analysis, or opinion; process material from electronic sources as critically and creatively as you do print sources. Check with the Writing Center for up-to-date documentation conventions. DOWNLOADING IS NOT RESEARCH.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be prepared independently; all sources and background material (print, electronic, or other) must be digested and acknowledged. Make to 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 writing in which plagiarism occurs and a grade of F for the course, as well as to report the incident to the university's Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

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.