

Fall 2007  
English 265  
TuTh 11:00-12:15

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& by appt

### Third World Literatures in English

This course, which introduces you to some of the Anglophone literatures of the Third World, will examine the problems of definition, analysis, and evaluation that attend our reading and understanding of texts from the Third World. Through a variety of theoretical essays and fictional works, our discussions will address, though not be limited to: a) whether or not terms like “Third World” or “post-colonial” are appropriate designations for this work; b) whether or not notions of “marginality,” “difference,” or “alterity,” so often deployed to characterize these works, are effective for understanding them; c) whether or not these works can be valuably studied as enactments of resistance against dominant ideologies and/or cultural formations.

Since these works were written not only at different historical moments, but also emerge from, and address, different rhetorical exigencies, and social, political, and cultural formations, our discussions will proceed through an awareness of these ideologically determined “constraints.”

#### Texts

##### Required:

Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*  
J.M. Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K*  
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*  
Nuruddin Farah, *Links*  
Bessie Head, *Maru*  
Merle Hodge, *Crick Crack Monkey*  
Salman Rushdie, *The Moor's Last Sigh*  
Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*  
Zoe Wicomb, *David's Story*

All of the essays for this course and selections from the recommended texts are on Reserve as well as available on ERES; you can access them by using the password engl265.

#### Tentative Class Schedule

Sept. 4:	Intro to course -- brief discussion of its focus, expectations regarding attendance, class participation, and writing assignments
Sept. 6, 11:	Essays in the order we'll discuss them: Jameson, Ahmad, Needham, and Spivak
<b>Sept. 12:</b>	<b>Paper 1 due:</b> Short 2-page paper on one or more of the essays discussed thus far

Sept. 13, 18:	"Introduction" & Chapter 1 of Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> and Hodge, <i>Crick Crack Monkey</i>
Sept. 20, 25, 27:	Chapters 2 & 3 from Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> and Salih, <i>Season of Migration to the North</i>
Oct. 2, 4:	Aidoo, <i>Our Sister Killjoy</i>
Oct. 9:	Some background on Subaltern Studies, and essays by Guha and Schwarz
<b>Oct. 11:</b>	<b>Paper 2 due:</b> short 2-page paper on Guha and/or Schwarz; <b>no class</b>
Oct. 16, 18:	Head, <i>Maru</i>
Oct. 16, 17, 18:	Conferences for Paper 3.
<b>Oct. 19:</b>	<b>Paper 3 due:</b> Longer 8- to 10-page paper on one or more of the novels covered thus far
<b>Oct. 20-28:</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>
Oct. 30, Nov., 1:	Coetzee, <i>Life and Times of Michael K</i>
Nov. 6:	Essays by Bhabha and Papstergiadis
Nov, 8, 13, 15:	Wicomb, <i>David's Story</i>
Nov. 20:	Essays by Brennan, Robbins, Dingwaney
<b>Nov. 21:</b>	<b>Paper 4 due:</b> Short 2-page paper on essay/s by Bhabha and/or Papastergiadis and/or Brennan and/or Dingwaney and/or Robbins due.
<b>Nov. 22-25:</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
Nov. 27, 29, Dec, 4:	Rushdie, <i>The Moor's Last Sigh</i>
Dec. 6, 11, 13:	Farah, <i>Links</i>
Dec. 10, 11, 12:	Conferences for Paper 5
<b>Dec. 14:</b>	<b>Paper 5 due:</b> Longer 8- to 10-page paper on one or more of the novels covered after Fall Break

### **Method of Instruction**

The course will be conducted through discussion, sometimes facilitated by me, but most often by small groups of students. On the first day of class, I will divide you into groups made up of approximately 5-6 students; each group will lead the discussion for two (textual) units--one before and one after the break; the groups will set up the issues to be discussed and/or raise questions that will help organize class discussion. Each member of the group will write a short one-page paper elucidating and reflecting on the issue/question s/he initiated in the group. These papers will count for 5% each towards the grade and should be submitted on the first day of each discussion unit. Though a small group will lead the discussion for a given unit, this does not exempt the rest of the class from 1) reading the assigned material, and 2) contributing their own thoughtful comments and/or questions to the discussion.

### **Attendance**

It should go without saying that you are expected to do all the reading for the course on time. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences for this class. For every day you miss beyond that, your

final grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a grade (e.g., if you have 4 absences your grade will go from B+ to B; if you have 5 absences, it will go from B+ to a B-, etc.)

### **Papers**

In addition to the two 1-page responses you will submit for the texts for which your group will facilitate the discussion, you will write three short 2-page papers, and two longer 8- to 10-page papers:

The three 2-page papers will address, and follow our discussion of, the theoretical essays I have assigned. In each you will briefly describe the central argument or arguments in one or more of the essays discussed in the class (or classes) immediately prior to the date on which each paper is due and indicate its (or their) salience for our understanding of Anglophone “Third World” literatures.

The two longer papers (8-10 pages each) will address one or more of the fictional texts and concerns we analyze **before** and **after** Fall Break respectively. (Thus, for example, for the first of these papers you will address *Crick Crack Monkey* and/or *Season of Migration* and/or *Our Sister Killjoy* and/or *Maru* and for the second you will address *Life and Times* and/or *David's Story* and/or *Moor's Last Sigh* and/or *Links*.) You can, but are not required to, take on board any of the theoretical essays we read alongside these works. In each paper you will present a sustained, well-developed argument organized around a central, coherently stated thesis. You should make your critical assumptions explicit and, as far as possible, reflect on those assumptions in the course of your essay. You are encouraged (though not required) to show me early drafts of your papers for comments. You can also revise the first of these papers after it is graded for a better grade. Obviously, the same is not possible for the second.

### **Due dates for papers**

**Paper 1 due: Sept. 12**

**Paper 2 due: Oct. 11**

**Paper 3 due: Oct. 19**

**Paper 4 due: Nov. 21**

**Paper 5 due: Dec. 14**

Papers must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on the dates they are due. You will be penalized a grade per day (e.g., lowered from B to B-) for unexcused late submissions. You can ask for extensions, but only by contacting me before the date the paper is due.

### **Grades**

Papers 1, 2 & 4 will count for 30% of the grade (10% each); papers 3 & 5 will count for 50% of the grade (25% each); the two one-page papers will count for 10% of the grade (5% each) and your participation in class discussion will count for the remaining 10%. You cannot pass the course unless you have completed all your written work.

### **Honor Code**

In this course, as in all others, you are expected to adhere to the spirit and letter of the Honor Code and to sign the Honor Code on all work you turn in. ("I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.")

### **Readings for English 265: Anglophone Literatures of the Third World on ERES**

Aijaz Ahmad, "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the 'National Allegory.'"

Homi K. Bhabha, "Signs Taken for Wonders."

Timothy Brennan, "Cosmopolitans and Celebrities."

Anuradha Dingwaney, "Translating 'Third World' Cultures."

Ranjit Guha, "The Small Voice of History."

Frederic Jameson, "Third World Literature in the Age of Multinational Capitalism."

Anuradha Dingwaney Needham, "The Place of Difference in Cross-cultural Literacy"

Nikos Papastergiadis, "Restless Hybrids."

Bruce Robbins, "Comparative Cosmopolitanism."

Henry Schwarz, "Provocations towards a theory of Third World Literature"

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "The Burden of English."