

**Spring 2003
English 265
MW, 12:00-1:15**

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Office hours: MW 1:30-2:30
TuTh 12:30-1:30 & by appt**

Anglophone Literature of the Third World

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:

J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Michelle Cliff, *No Telephone to Heaven*
Tsi Tsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
Bessie Head, *A Question of Power*
Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Salman Rushdie, *Shame*
Sam Selvon, *Moses Ascending*
Sara Suleri, *Meatless Days*

Recommended:

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*

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

Feb. 3: Introduction: Details about course requirements, readings and papers.
Feb. 5, 10: Essays by Ahmad, Dingwaney, Jameson, & Spivak
Feb. 12: “Introduction” and Chs. 1, 2, and 3 from Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*
Feb. 17, 19: *Nervous Conditions*
Feb. 20 (4:30 pm): Lecture on “Coetzee and the Public Sphere” by David Atwell
Feb. 24, 26, Mar. 3: Coetzee, “Into the Dark Chamber” and *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Mar. 5: Essays by Brennan and Robbins
Mar. 10, 12: *No Telephone to Heaven*
Mar. 17, 19: *A Question of Power*
Conferences for Paper 1 on Mar. 17, 18, 19
Mar. 20: **Paper 1 due (by 4:30 pm)**
Mar. 22- Mar. 30: **SPRING BREAK**
Mar. 31 Essay by Guha

Apr. 2, 7: *God of Small Things*
Apr. 9: Essays by Bhabha and Papastergiadis
Apr. 14, 16: *Shame*
Apr. 21, 23: *Meatless Days*
Apr. 28, 30: *Moses Ascending*
May 5, 7: *Buddha of Suburbia*
 Conferences for Paper 2 on May 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
May 12: **Paper 2 due (by 4:30 pm)**

Method of Instruction

The course will be conducted through discussion, sometimes facilitated by me, and other times by small groups of students. On the first day of class, I will divide you into discussion and presentation groups made up of approximately 5-6 students; each group will lead the discussion for one (textual) unit--setting up the issues to be discussed and/or raising questions that will help organize class discussion. Each member of the group will write a short one-page paper elucidating the issue/question s/he initiated in the group. This paper will not be graded, but I will assign it a $\sqrt{-}$, $\sqrt{}$, or $\sqrt{+}$. 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

You will write two papers (10-12 pages each)--paper one addressing one or more of the texts and concerns we cover before Spring Break; paper two will address one or more of the texts and concerns we cover after Spring Break. 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 may also revise paper one after it is graded for a better grade.

Due dates for papers

Paper 1 due: March 20
Paper 2 due: May 12

Papers must be submitted 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 and 2 will count for 70% of the grade (35% each); your participation in class discussion will count for the remaining 30%. You cannot pass the course unless you have completed all your written work.

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."

J.M. Coetzee: "Into the Dark Chamber."

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

Ranajit Guha, "The Small Voice of History."

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

Nikos Papastergiadis, "Restless Hybrids."

Bruce Robbins, "Comparative Cosmopolitanism."

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "The Burden of English."