

Spring 2003
English 374
TuTh 11:00-12:15

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Office hours: MW 1:30-2:20
TuTh 12:30-1:30 & by appt

Western Representations of the Colonized Subject

This course will examine how western writers and writers from the formerly colonized territory represent the colonized subject. Addressing what contemporary critical theory has labeled the “crisis of representation,” our discussions will, in particular, be informed by such questions as: who speaks? In whose interests? About and to whom? For what purposes? In so doing, our discussions will also address whether or not it is possible for people who do not belong to a particular culture (especially if that culture is conceived as “unequal” or “underdeveloped”) to write “non-coercively” about it. In addition to several fictional works, we will read theoretical essays/chapters on representation.

Texts

Required:

J.M. Coetzee, *Foe*
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
Hari Kunzru, *The Impressionist*
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Recommended:

J.M. Coetzee, *White Writing*
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Material assigned from recommended texts as well as some essays from other collections have been put on reserve and are also available on ERES. The password on ERES is engl374.

Tentative Class Schedule

Feb. 4: Introduction: discussion of readings; and requirements and procedures.
Feb. 6, 11, 13: From *Orientalism*, Introduction and Ch. 1
From *Black Skin, White Masks*, Introduction, Chs. 1 and 5
From *White Writing*, Introduction & Ch. 1
Feb. 18: From Spivak's "Can the Subaltern Speak?" and Alcoff, "Problem of Speaking for Others"
Feb. 20 (4:30 pm): David Atwell will speak on "Coetzee and the Public Sphere.s" Plan to attend.
Feb. 20, 25, 27: Selections from *Confessions; Frankenstein*
Mar. 4, 6: *Robinson Crusoe*
Mar. 11, 13: *Foe*
Mar. 18, 20: *Heart of Darkness*
Mar. 17, 18, 19: Conferences for Paper 1
Mar. 20: **Paper 1 due (by 4:30 pm)**
Mar. 22- Mar. 30: **SPRING BREAK**
Apr. 1, 3: *Season of Migration to the North*
Apr. 8, 10: *Kim*

Apr. 15, 17:	<i>The Impressionist</i>
Apr. 22, 24:	<i>A Passage to India</i>
Apr. 29, May 1, 6:	“Outside the Whale,” <i>Midnight’s Children</i>
May 8:	Wrap up; course evaluations
May 7, 8, 9:	Conferences for Paper 2
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.