

Spring 2004
English 265
TuTh 1:30-2:45

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Office hours: TuTh 11:00 am-1:00 pm
& 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:

Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*
J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Michelle Cliff, *Abeng*
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, *The Moor's Last Sigh*
Sam Selvon, *Moses Ascending*

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 eng1265.

Tentative Class Schedule

Feb. 10: Introduction: Details about the course--requirements, readings and papers.
Feb. 12, 17: Essays, in the order we'll discuss them, by: Jameson, Ahmad, Dingwaney, Schwarz & Spivak ("The Burden of English")
Feb. 19: Selections from Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks* (Introduction and Chs. 1, 2, 3)
Feb. 24, 26: Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
Mar. 2: Guha, "The Small Voice of History" and some background on the Subaltern Studies project
Mar. 4, 9: Cliff, *Abeng*
Mar. 11, 16: Roy, *God of Small Things*
Mar. 18, 23, 25: Coetzee, "Into the Dark Chamber"; *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Mar. 23, 24, 25: Conferences for Paper 1
Mar. 26: **Paper 1 due (by 4:30 pm)**
Mar. 27- Apr. 30: **SPRING BREAK**
Apr. 6 Essays by Brennan and Robbins

Apr. 8, 13:	Head, <i>A Question of Power</i>
Apr. 15:	Essays by Bhabha and Papastergiadis
Apr. 20, 22:	Rushdie's <i>The Moor's Last Sigh</i>
Apr. 27, 29:	Selvon, <i>Moses Ascending</i>
May 4, 6:	Kureishi, <i>Buddha of Suburbia</i>
May 11, 13:	Aidoo, <i>Our Sister Killjoy</i>
May 13:	Concluding discussion of course
May 14, 15, 16:	Conferences for Paper 2
May 17:	Paper 2 due (by 4:30 pm)

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 discussion and presentation 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 10% 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

You will write two papers (8-10 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 26

Paper 2 due: May 17

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 60% of the grade (30% each); the two one-page papers will count for 20% of the grade (10% each) and your participation in class discussion will count for the remaining 20%. 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."

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

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "The Burden of English."