

# ENGL 330 Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

**Trimester 1 2009**

(Monday 2 March – Friday 5 June 2009)

24 Points

## STAFF

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## CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

### Lectures

Tuesday and Thursday                      12 noon – 12.50      HMLT 104

### Workshop

Friday    12 noon – 12.50      HMLT 104

## COURSE CONTENT

This course considers the impact of British colonial expansion on the development of modern fiction, with a particular focus on novels written in the twentieth century. The novels discussed represent a variety of different national literatures and are considered in the contexts of their historical and cultural production. Recent postcolonial debates provide the theoretical framework for discussion.

The course covers a range of twentieth-century novels, reading them in relation to the historical events of modern colonialism, through which European nations extended their imperial control over much of the world. The course will provide an introduction to some of the theoretical and critical issues relevant to postcolonial studies (and literary analysis in general) in twentieth-century fiction. In addition to set novels, required reading includes selected non-fictional writing, in the form of postcolonial criticism and critical commentary on the novels. These readings are a crucial component of the course and are collected in the *Student Notes* anthology.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The paper aims to:

- a) provide an overview of literary representations of aspects of the colonial project through the twentieth century, by writers of European and non-European descent;

- b) provide an introduction to some of the theoretical and critical issues relevant to postcolonial study of twentieth century fiction;
- c) develop the skills of attentive reading through close analysis and discussion in relation to the set novels;
- d) develop the skills of theoretical analysis and discussion in relation to the set novels and selected non-fictional writings;
- e) build on students' knowledge and appreciation of literature and provide the critical and analytical tools necessary for a progression to graduate studies.

Students should therefore:

- a) become familiar with the thought, form, techniques and language of the set novels;
- b) gain an understanding of the general nature of twentieth century fiction in relation to the social, cultural and theoretical contexts to which it belongs;
- c) develop skills in alert and informed reading, and in the oral and written processes of literary discussion, especially in critical analysis and evaluation in the form of reading reports and an extended essay at a level appropriate to graduates majoring in English Literature.

## COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered through two lectures and one full-class workshop each week. In addition to set novels, required reading includes selected non-fictional writing, in the form of postcolonial criticism and critical commentary on the novels.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

A paper in the novel inevitably entails considerable time spent reading (and re-reading) set texts. In addition to the reading of set novels you are also required to spend time reading the critical and theoretical writings set for the paper and attending lectures and workshops. University guidelines recommend an average of 16 hours work a week for a course at this level and of this duration. It is strongly recommended that you develop regular reading habits to ensure that you have read set fiction and critical writing *before* it is discussed in class.

## READINGS

- *ENGL 330 Student Notes*
- John Kucich ed., *Fictions of Empire*
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Andrea Levy, *Small Island*
- David Malouf, *Remembering Babylon*
- J.M. Coetzee, *Foe*
- Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by a combination of term work and final exam. Term work and final exam are each worth 50% of the final mark. Assessment has been structured to meet the aims and objectives of the paper and to ensure coverage of most of the novels and critical material on the paper. Both in-term and exam questions will develop and assess the ability to read literary and critical works specifically and competently.

Assessment is weighted as follows: final examination (3 hours) 50%; five brief reading reports (worth 30% in total); and one compulsory in-term essay (20%).

### Coursework (50%)

Reading Reports (see Course Programme below for due dates): there are five reading reports in total (all are compulsory) each worth 6% of your final mark. An essay of 2000 words is due on **Friday 15 May, 5pm**. This essay is worth 20% of your final mark.

The essay and reading reports should be handed in to the English department administration or emailed direct to james.meffan@vuw.ac.nz as an email attachment in MS Word format (.doc). If sending an electronic file please name the file as in the following examples:

- For a reading report: smith1.doc
- For an essay: smithessay.doc

(i.e last name followed by report number or "essay", with no spaces).

### Examination (50%)

The three-hour final examination is a **closed book exam** and will be scheduled some time during the official exam period (12 June – 1 July 2009). When finalised, the exam timetable will be posted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/exam-timetable.aspx>

In 2009 the exam will comprise two sections:

Section A will ask you to write two essays, each on a different novel. You may not discuss novels already written on in term work. Each essay in this section will be worth 30% of the exam grade. There will be a choice of two questions on each of the novels studied on the course;

Section B will ask you to write a comparative essay on two novels in relation to one of a selection of several topics. You may not discuss texts discussed in Section A of the exam or in term work, except in passing. This essay will be worth 40% of the exam grade.

## ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

## **PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS**

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

### **Extensions**

If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

You are required to attend lectures and workshops regularly; attendance at a minimum of eight workshops is mandatory. It is also a mandatory requirement that all written work must be completed and submitted, and the three-hour final examination must be completed at the end of the course. Failure to meet mandatory requirements does not prevent you from completing other pieces of assessment, including the examination (Assessment Handbook 2.4), however failure to meet the mandatory requirements for this course will leave you with fail grade for the course as a whole.

## **PRESENTATION OF WORK**

All written work should follow MLA conventions for style and citation. Full details of the MLA style are provided in *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th edition) and the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (2nd edition), both of which are available in the library.

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) offers an excellent Internet resource on MLA style. It can be accessed at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>. A basic outline of MLA conventions is available on Blackboard.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material

- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such MATERIAL.

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **TURNITIN**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

### **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

All additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via Blackboard, or by email to all class members, as well as in lectures.

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

A copy of the General University Statutes and Policies can be found on Blackboard.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	03/03/09	Lecture 1: Introduction	JM
	05/03/09	Lecture 2: The imperial archive	JM
	06/03/09	No workshop this week	
Week 2	10/03/09	Lecture 3: "Heart of Darkness"	JM
	12/03/09	Lecture 4: "Heart of Darkness"	JM
	13/03/09	Workshop (READING REPORT 1 Due 5 pm)	
Week 3	17/03/09	Lecture 5: Claiming a voice: writing back to empire	JM
	19/03/09	Lecture 6: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
	20/03/09	Workshop (READING REPORT 2 Due 5 pm)	
Week 4	24/03/09	Lecture 7: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
	26/03/09	Lecture 8: Politics of identity, politics of difference	JM
	27/03/09	Workshop (READING REPORT 3 Due 5 pm)	
Week 5	31/03/09	Lecture 9: <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	AJ
	02/04/09	Lecture 10: <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	AJ
	03/04/09	Workshop (READING REPORT 4 Due 5 pm)	
Week 6	07/04/09	Lecture 11: "The Beach of Falesà"	JM
	09/04/09	Lecture 12: Representation and endorsement	JM
	10/04/09	No workshop this week (Good Friday)	
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> (Good) Friday 10 April – Friday 24 April 2009			
Week 7	28/04/09	Lecture 13: <i>Small Island</i>	JM
	30/04/09	Lecture 14: <i>Small Island</i>	JM
	01/05/09	Workshop (READING REPORT 5 Due 5 pm)	
Week 8	05/05/09	Lecture 15: <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	JM
	07/05/09	Lecture 16: <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	JM
	08/05/09	Workshop	
Week 9	12/05/09	Lecture 17: The politics of representation	JM
	14/05/09	Lecture 18: <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Foe</i>	JM
	15/05/09	Workshop (ESSAY Due 5 pm)	
Week 10	19/05/09	Lecture 19: <i>Foe</i>	JM
	21/05/09	Lecture 20: <i>Foe</i>	JM
	22/05/09	Workshop	
Week 11	28/05/09	Lecture 21: Culture and authenticity	JM
	30/05/09	Lecture 22: <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
	31/05/09	Workshop	
Week 12	02/06/09	Lecture 23: <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
	04/06/09	Lecture 24: From global to local	JM
	05/06/09	Workshop	

**Examination Period:** Friday 12 June – Wednesday 1 July 2009