

ENGL 330 Modern Fiction

Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 July 2010

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July 2010

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
James Meffan	james.meffan@vuw.ac.nz	463 6807	VZ 903 (Course co-ordinator)

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday and Wednesday 11.00 – 11.50 am HMLT 002

Tutorials

Tutorials will be arranged in the first week of trimester and tutorial lists posted on Blackboard by Thursday March 4 at 5 pm.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered through two lectures and one tutorial 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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All changes or additional information will be conveyed to students via Blackboard.

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.

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 13 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

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

- *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 REQUIREMENTS

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 21 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 your 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 (Friday 11 June to Saturday 4 July 2010). When finalised, the exam timetable will be posted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/exam-timetable.aspx>

In 2010 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. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

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

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. 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. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend 8 out of 11 tutorials.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the second class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise yourself with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Mon 1 Mar	Lecture 1: Introduction
	Wed 3 Mar	Lecture 2: The imperial archive
Week 2	Mon 8 Mar	Lecture 3: "Heart of Darkness"
	Wed 10 Mar	Lecture 4: "Heart of Darkness"
		READING REPORT 1 DUE FRIDAY 12 MARCH BY 5 PM
Week 3	Mon 15 Mar	Screening: <i>Darwin's Nightmare</i>
	Wed 17 Mar	Lecture 5: Claiming a voice: writing back to empire
		READING REPORT 2 DUE FRIDAY 19 MARCH BY 5 PM
Week 4	Mon 22 Mar	Lecture 6: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
	Wed 24 Mar	Lecture 7: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
		READING REPORT 3 DUE FRIDAY 26 MARCH BY 5 PM
Week 5	Mon 29 Mar	Lecture 8: <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
	Wed 31 Mar	Lecture 9: <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
		Good Friday this week
Mid Trimester Break: Friday 2 April– Sunday 18 April 2010		
Week 6	Mon 19 Apr	Lecture 10: "The Beach of Falesà"
	Wed 21 Apr	Lecture 11: Representation and Endorsement
		READING REPORT 4 DUE FRIDAY 23 APRIL BY 5 PM
Week 7	Mon 26 Apr	Lecture 12: <i>Small Island</i>
	Wed 28 Apr	Lecture 13: <i>Small Island</i>
		READING REPORT 5 DUE FRIDAY 30 APRIL BY 5 PM
Week 8	Mon 3 May	Lecture 14: The Politics of Representation
	Wed 5 May	Lecture 15: <i>Remembering Babylon</i>

Week 9 Mon 10 May Lecture 16: *Remembering Babylon*
 Wed 12 May Lecture 17: *Robinson Crusoe* and *Foe*

Week 10 Mon 17 May Lecture 18: *Foe*
 Wed 19 May Lecture 19: *Foe*
 ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 21 MAY BY 5 PM

Week 11 Mon 24 May Lecture 20: Culture and Authenticity
 Wed 26 May Lecture 21: *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Week 12 Mon 30 May Lecture 22: *The Buddha of Suburbia*
 Wed 2 Jun Lecture 23: From Global to Local

Study Week: Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2010

Examination Period: Friday 11 June – Sunday 4 July 2010