

## ENGL 330 Postcolonial Literature

### Trimester 1 2013

4 March to 3 July 2013

20 Points



#### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break:	22 to 28 April 2013

#### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

#### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Dougal McNeill    [dougal.mcneill@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:dougal.mcneill@vuw.ac.nz)    463 6807    VZ 903    Course co-ordinator  
(Office Hour: Monday 12noon – 1pm).

#### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

##### Lectures

Mon,Thu    1310-1400    Laby LT118

##### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the ENGL 330 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the noticeboard in the von Zedlitz/Hugh Mackenzie walkway.

### TEACHING / LEARNING SUMMARY

The course will be delivered through two lectures and one tutorial each week. In addition to set novels and poems, 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.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

### COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course considers the impact of British colonial expansion on the development of modern fiction, with a particular focus on novels written in the 20th century. The novels discussed represent a variety of different national literatures and are considered in the contexts of their historical and cultural production. Recent post-colonial debates provide the theoretical framework for discussion.

### COURSE CONTENT

The course covers a range of twentieth-century novels and poems, 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 course 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 who pass this course should therefore:

- 1) become familiar with the thought, form, techniques and language of the set novels;
- 2) gain an understanding of the general nature of twentieth century fiction in relation to the social, cultural and theoretical contexts to which it belongs;
- 3) 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

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 week hours per teaching week.

A course 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 course and attending lectures and workshops. 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

##### Essential texts:

ENGL 330 Student Notes;

Lu Xun, *Real Story of Ah-Q*;

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*;

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*;

Andrea Levy, *Small Island*;

Jean Binta Breeze, *Third-World Girl: Selected Poems*;

Sok-yong Hwang, *The Guest*;

Yong-ha Kim, *Your Republic is Calling You*;

Tahmina Anam, *The Golden Age*.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks on the ground floor of the Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks Easterfield Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is internally assessed. Assessment has been structured to meet the aims and objectives of the course and to ensure coverage of most of the novels and critical material on the courses. Assessment is weighted as follows: four brief reading reports (worth 40% in total); one theoretical report (worth 25%) and one compulsory in-term essay (35%). The reading reports will give you an opportunity to development and be assessed in your progress around learning objectives (a), (b) and (c). The theoretical report and in-term essay assess objectives (d) and (c) and (e).

### Coursework (100%)

Reading Reports (see Course Programme below for due dates): there are four reading reports in total (all are compulsory). An essay of 2500 words is due on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm**. This essay is worth 35% of your final mark. A final theoretical report of 2000 words is due on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm**.

## ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

## COLLECTING MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

## EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

### **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 at least 8 out of 11 tutorials

### **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

A class representative will be elected in the first 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. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz).

### **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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this 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>

## TURNITIN

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. 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.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Mar 4	Lecture 1: Introduction
	Mar 7	Lecture 2: Postcolonial realism or postcolonial modernism?

Week 2	Mar11	Lecture 3: Claiming a Voice: writing back to empire
	Mar14	Lecture 4: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>

**READING REPORT 1 DUE Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 5pm**

Week 3	Mar18	Lecture 5: <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
	Mar21	Lecture 6: Postcolonialism or Anti-imperialism?

Week 4 MTW	Mar25	Lecture 7: The Real Story of Lu Xun
	Mar28	No teaching, Thursday before Easter

**Easter Break:** Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013

Week 4 R F	Apr 4	Lecture 8: Lu Xun and Modernism
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**READING REPORT 2 DUE Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm**

Week 5	Apr 8	Lecture 9: <i>Nervous Conditions</i>
	Apr12	Lecture 10: <i>Nervous Conditions</i>

Week 6	Apr15	Lecture 11: <i>Small Island</i>
	Apr18	Lecture 12: <i>Small Island</i>

**READING REPORT 3 DUE FRIDAY 27 Apr 5pm**

**Mid Trimester Break:** Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013

Week 7	Apr29	Linton Kwesi Johnson
	May 2	Jean 'Binta' Breeze

**READING REPORT 4 DUE Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 5pm**

Week 8	May 6	Lecture 14: 'mugging de Queen's English'
	May 9	Lecture 15: Gender, Feminism, and Postcolonial Politics

Week 9      May13    Lecture 16: *Korea and Postcolonial Politics*  
                 May16    Lecture 17: *Your Republic is Calling You*

Week 10     May20    Lecture 18: *The Guest*  
                 May23    Lecture 19: *The Guest*

**ESSAY DUE Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 5pm**

Week 11     May27    Lecture 20: Culture and Authenticity  
                 May30    Lecture 21: *A Golden Age*

Week 12     Jun3      No teaching, Queen's Birthday  
                 Jun 6      Lecture 23: From Global to Local

**THEORETICAL REPORT DUE Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 5pm**