

English 3365
Postcolonial Literature
Spring 2007
TTh 2:30-4
RG Cullen 105
section 05234

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Required Texts:

Abouzeid, Leila. *Year of the Elephant*.
Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
Farah, Nuruddin. *Sweet and Sour Milk*
Ibrahim, Sonallah. *Zaat*.
Kincaid, Jamaica. *Lucy*.
Tagore, Rabindranath. *The Home and the World*.
Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*.
Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. *This Earth of Mankind*.

Course Goals: The most general goals of this course are to improve our ability to think critically and write clearly and to improve our understanding of the complicated relationship between history, politics, and economics on the one hand, and literature or culture on the other. The second question will be addressed in the context of the history of colonialism, with its decisive role in the literatures of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. Our emphasis is on the novel, not only as literary genre, but also as anti-colonial, nationalist and postnationalist text. Through the three distinct units of the course, we will examine the recurring deep structure of histories in the various regions that were colonized by Europe and consider how this history affected culture, especially literary culture, in these areas. The course will also ask what relationship these postcolonial literatures have with their respective pre-colonial literary traditions, how postcolonial literary form parallels or diverges from European literatures, and how gender is constructed in a postcolonial context.

Requirements: Students will write two short papers and a medium length final paper. They will also need to pass a series of pop quizzes. There will be at least 8 quizzes given over the course of the semester at the beginning of class. Quizzes cannot be made up, but the 2 worst quiz grades will be dropped before your average is calculated.

Grades: Papers 1 and 2=25% each, Paper 3= 30%, Pop quiz avg.= 20%

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing sources without acknowledgement, submitting work produced either wholly by someone else or with the unauthorized assistance of someone else, and copying from another person. Any student who engages in such activity will be dropped from the course with a final grade of F.

Schedule of Readings

UNIT 1 COLONIZATION
Week 1

1/16 Introductions
1/18 Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* Chapters 1-8
Week 2
1/23 no class
1/25 Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* Chapters 9-end
Week 3
1/30 Said, *Culture and Imperialism* Introduction, Chapter 1
2/1 Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* Chapters 1-4
Week 4
2/6 Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* Chapters 5-9
2/8 Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* Chapters 10-15
Week 5
2/13 Toer, *This Earth of Mankind* Chapters 16-end
2/15 paper workshops: small group meetings
UNIT 2 DECOLONIZATION
Week 6
2/20 film: Gandhi PAPER 1 DUE
2/22 Tagore, *The Home and the World* Chapter 1-3
Week 7
2/27 Tagore, *The Home and the World* Chapters 4-7
3/1 Tagore, *The Home and the World* Chapters 8-end
Week 8
3/6 Said, *Culture and Imperialism* pp. 191-238
3/8 film: *Battle of Algiers*
SPRING BREAK
UNIT 3 POSTCOLONIAL
Week 9
3/20 Abouzeid, *Year of the Elephant*
3/22 film: *Life and Debt* PAPER 2 DUE
Week 9
3/27 Farah, *Sweet and Sour Milk* beginning –Chapter 6
3/29 Farah, *Sweet and Sour Milk* Chapter 7-10
Week 10
4/3 Farah, *Sweet and Sour Milk* Chapter 11-end
4/5 Guha, “On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India”; Said, *Culture and Imperialism* pp.239-261
Week 11
4/10 Ibrahim, *Zaat* Chapters 1-5
4/12 Ibrahim, *Zaat* Chapters 6-11
Week 12
4/17 Ibrahim, *Zaat* Chapters 12-16
4/19 Ibrahim, *Zaat* Chapters 17-end
Week 13
4/24 Kincaid, *Lucy* pages 1-83
4/26 Kincaid, *Lucy* pages 85-end
5/1 FINAL PAPER DUE