

Syllabus
World Cultures Through Literature & Art
WCL 2351, Fall 2009

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Office Hours: 3:00 – 4:30 Tues., and by appointment

This course studies contemporary global/local developments, conflicts through works of literature, painting, and film. Initially we will focus on the issue of representation – asking ourselves how do images affect our perceptions?

With this information in hand we will look at two significant issues from the early 21st Century. 1) Globalization and Transnationalism; 2) The Middle East conflicts of the 20-21st century. We will look at the history of both of these issues in order to analyze how current problems arose and how interactions (and wars) with other countries affected the ultimate outcomes.

This class will focus on writing and discussion. To this end you will be required to write three pages every other week in your class journal.

Goals for the course:

1. Understand how the long term historical background of a region affects current crisis.
2. Enhance writing skills and critical thinking.
3. Understand the significance of a transnational perspective with regards to world events.
4. Increase technological skills with active involvement in class blog.
5. Develop an interdisciplinary perspective regarding the importance of culture.
6. Analyze the relationship between East and West (Middle East and the United States)

Assignments:

Course Journal, 6 journal entries (1200 words based on questions posted on web ct) due every other week, starting week of Sept. 8–

Class Presentation

Final Paper due day of final exam

Course Journal	30%
Class Presentation	20%
Final Paper - 12 pages, will count as grade for final exam	30%

Attendance –	20%
total	100%

all assignments (including the journal entries) turned in electronically – through “turnitin”

attendance –

- 1 unexcused absence your attendance grade will be an 89
- 2 unexcused absences your grade will be an 81
- 3 – 4 unexcused absences, your attendance grade will be a 70
- 5 or more unexcused absences, your attendance grade your grade is a 69

excused absences – student’s hospitalization or death in the family, in addition to the discretion of professor

Readings:

Appaduri, Arjun, *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*, Chapter I.
 Ghosh, Amitav, *The Shadow Lines*, Mariner Books, 2005
 Kanafani, Ghassan, *Men in the Sun*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1998
 Liebling, A.J., “Letter from Gaza,” *The New Yorker*, March 17, 1957
 Mamdani, Mahmood, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, Three Leaves Publishing, 2005
 Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark*. selections
 Said, Edward, *Orientalism*, Vintage Press, 1978, selections
 Salih, Al-Tayyib *Season of Migration to the North*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1996

Films:

- Passage to India
- Queen Victoria’s Empire – Passage to India (documentary)
- The Syrian Bride
- Battle of Algiers

Schedule

Week 1

Film: Passage to India

Week 2

Documentary: Queen Victoria’s Empire – Passage to India

Reading: *Orientalism* by Edward Said, pages 1-48

Week 3

Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark*. selections

First journal entry due Tuesday. Send through “Turn It In” – 1200 words

Week 4

Reading: Ghosh, Amitav, *The Shadow Lines* –

Week 5

Reading: Ghosh, Amitav, *The Shadow Lines* - continued

Second journal entry due Tuesday.

Week 6

Reading: Liebling, A.J. “Letter from Gaza, March 17, 1957”

Deadline for choosing topic for final paper

Week 7

Reading: Salih, Al-Tayyib *Season of Migration to the North*

Third journal entry due Tuesday.

Week 8

Reading: Salih, Al-Tayyib *Season of Migration to the North*, continued

Turn in one page summary of your final paper (hard copy)

Week 9

Reading: Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*

Fourth journal entry due Tuesday.

Week 10

Reading: Mahmood Mamdani, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*, continued

Week 11

Ghassan Kanafani, *Men in the Sun*

Fifth journal entry due.

Week 12

Appaduri, Arjun, *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*,

Week 13

Discussion of final papers

Sixth journal entry due

Week 14

– Last Class – Discussion of final papers

Week 15 Dead Week

Week 16 - final paper due

