

New Literatures in English

Class Time: 9:10-12:00 Wednesday

Classroom: D221 Humanities and Social Sciences Building I

Instructor: Shu-Ling Chen

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Phone: 890-5309

Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday

Required Textbook:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. 50th Anniversary ed. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Books Also Used:

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, eds. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*. 2nd ed. London/New York: Routledge, 2006.

Baldwin, Dean & Patrick J. Quinn. *An Anthology of Colonial and Postcolonial Short Fiction*. Boston/New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.

Dobie, Ann B. *Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism*. 3rd edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2012.

Thieme, John, ed. *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. London/New York: Arnold, 1996.

Tyson, Lois. *Using Critical Theory: How to Read and Write about Literature*. 3rd edition. New York: Routledge, 2021.

Course Description:

This course introduces new literatures in English, more commonly referred to as postcolonial literatures in English. It begins with some key concepts and theories in postcolonial studies. The course then focuses on the writings of various important authors from former British colonies, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India/Pakistan, and several countries in the Caribbean and Africa. We will read each work closely and analyze it critically. Students will learn to appreciate the richness and diversity of postcolonial literatures. They are required to give one or two group presentations and three short individual presentations, answering questions based on the literary texts. Students are expected to come to class prepared and participate in class discussions in English.

Schedule:

Week 1. 2/19/25: Introduction

Week 2. 2/26: **Baldwin**: "Postcolonial Theory: A Primer" (8-18); **Tyson**: "Using Concepts from Postcolonial Theory to Understand Literature" (263-270); **Dobie**: "More Cultural Studies: Postcolonialism and Multiculturalism" (204-216)

- Week 3. 3/5: Chinua Achebe: from “What Has Literature Got to Do with It?” (**Thieme** 21-26); Edward W. Said: from *Orientalism* (**Ashcroft** 24-27); Frantz Fanon: “The Fact of Blackness” (**Ashcroft** 291-294); Ngugi wa Thiong’o: from *Decolonising the Mind* (**Thieme** 79-83) (**Presentation 1**)
- Week 4. 3/12: **Baldwin: Canada**: “Canada” (319-327); Margaret Atwood: “The Age of Lead” (411-422); Margaret Atwood: from *Survival* (**Thieme** 359-362) (**Presentation 2**)
- Week 5. 3/19: **Australia**: “Australia” (729-737); Henry Lawson: “The Drover’s Wife” (742-748); Murray Bail: “The Drover’s Wife” (788-792) (**Presentation 3**)
- Week 6. 3/26: **New Zealand**: “New Zealand” (823-830); Frank Sargeson: “The Making of a New Zealander” (859-864); Keri Hulme: “One Whale, Singing” (889-898) (**Presentation 4**)
- Week 7. 4/2: **India/Pakistan**: “India/Pakistan” (513-520); Raja Rao: “The Cow of the Barricades” (521-525); Anita Desai “Studies in the Park” (571-580) (**Presentation 5**)
- Week 8. 4/9: Watch and Analyze a Movie Based on a Novel Written by an Author from One of the Countries Studied in this Course
- Week 9. 4/16: **Midterm Examination**
- Week 10. 4/23: Salman Rushdie: “The Courter” (591-608); Salman Rushdie: from *Imaginary Homelands* (**Thieme** 899-902) (**Presentation 6**)
- Week 11. 4/30: **The Caribbean**: “The Caribbean” (433-440); Jean Rhys: “The Day They Burnt the Books” (451-457); V. S. Naipaul: “The Night Watchman’s Occurrence Book” (463-470); (**Presentation 7**)
- Week 12. 5/7: **Africa**: “Africa” (629-641); Ama Ata Aidoo: “Two Sisters” (648-659); Bessie Head: “The Wind and a Boy” (688-694) (**Presentation 8**)
- Week 13. 5/14: Ngugi wa Thiong’o: “Minutes of Glory” (677-687); Nadine Gordimer: “Amnesty” (703-710) (**Presentation 9**)
- Week 14. 5/21: Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart* (Chapter 1-8, p3-74) (**Presentation 10**)
- Week 15. 5/28: Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart* (Chapter 9-15, p75-142) (**Presentation 11**)
- Week 16. 6/4: Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart* (Chapter 16-25, p143-209) (**Presentation 12**)
- Week 17. 6/11: **Final Examination**

Grading Policy:

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 15%

One Group Presentation: 15%

Three Short Individual Presentations: 10%

Midterm & Final Examinations: 50%

Two Rules:

If you miss class more than 3 times, you will receive a 0 for Attendance unless you have a valid reason.

Please be on time. Being late to class three times counts as one absence.