

Post-Colonial Literature, ENG 375
*An Introduction to Reading Literature
from Post-Colonial Perspectives*

English 375-01 Spring 2015
Tue & Thu 12.30 — 1.45pm
Prof Mark Behr, Tel: 843 3979
Office Hours: Tue & Thu 9.00 — 11.00, or by appointment

Aims: In this course we read and discuss eight 20th Century novels and a number of films that deal in different ways with the past five hundred years of colonial and postcolonial history. The aim of the course is to foster postcolonial theoretical understandings of literature. We seek to understand the manner in which multiple histories and different aspects of colonialism inform the content and form of the fiction we read and the lives we live today. Through an exploration of this fiction in conjunction with one theory textbook we seek to understand the primary concerns of postcolonial textual analysis, its key concepts and a number of the field's contemporary debates, including questions of race, slavery, diasporic cultures, migration, language, gender, habitation, resistance, hybridization, power and the transformations associated with identity through globalization.

Novels:

1. Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*.
2. Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*.
3. Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*.
4. Tayeb Salih: *Season of Migration to the North*.
5. Michael Ondaatje: *The English Patient*.
6. Keri Hulme: *The Bone People*.
7. Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*.
8. Toni Morrison: *Beloved*.

Theory Text: Bill Ashcroft: *Post-Colonial Transformation*.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Mid-term take-home exam:	20%
Term Paper:	40%
Final take-home Exam:	20%
Class Participation	20%

Quizzes, Tests & Exams: Other than the mid-term and the final exam there are no scheduled quizzes or tests planned for this class. However, if class discussion lags or if, in my opinion, work is not up to scratch, I shall include any of these methods of assessment. Scores for any such unscheduled assessment will be included in your participation grade. Should you miss any such tests for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to re-schedule with me. *Mid-term exams are to be written as if each answer is a mini academic*

paper. This means the language and editing is of the same quality as that of a term paper, with the same expectations for a bibliography, citations and footnotes/endnotes. No take-home exam that is handed in after the deadline will be accepted.

Term Paper: As part of this course you will write one standardized academic term paper of no less than ten and no more than twelve pages in length. The paper will make use of at least five secondary sources in addition to the theory text book. The paper is to be concerned with one of the novels we have discussed in class. The paper will demonstrate your grasp of the relevance of some part of the chosen novel to questions within or issues relevant to postcolonial literary theory. *No term paper that is handed in after the deadline will be accepted.* Format: Times New Roman, Twelve Point Font, Double Spaced.

Attendance: You are allowed three *excused* absences and no unexcused absences. Absences are not excused unless you have offered me a reasonable motivation such as illness, disease or disaster *before class*. After three excused absences your grade will automatically go down by one third of a letter, for example, from a B+ to a B. I will penalize you a third of a letter-grade for each unexcused absence. Being late for class will be severely frowned upon. Three late arrivals will constitute an absence.

The Hours: This course requires a substantial amount of reading and writing. I suggest you will have to do at the very least one to two hours of reading and/or writing per day in order to complete the course with a reasonable grade.

Classroom Language and Culture: We will at times be working with provocative material, subject matter and language that may be uncomfortable to some of us. As a teacher I will aim to maintain a safe and respectful space while also at times making use of provocative remarks and language aimed at stimulating debate and inquiry. You are free to come and discuss the classroom culture with me if you are experiencing problems in this regard.

Plagiarism: Work handed in for this class is governed by the Honor Code. All work you hand in during the semester must be entirely your own and produced exclusively for this class. Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own the work done by anyone else. This act defeats the purpose of education and carries severe penalties. The use of anyone else's ideas or expressions requires giving that person explicit credit. Penalties for plagiarism may include: failing grades for those assignments which were plagiarized; failing grades for the course; suspension from school.

Letters of Recommendation: Students frequently request letters from professors to assist them in being selected to graduate schools and/or into careers in later life. To write an honest, thorough, sincere and appropriate letter of recommendation takes time, effort and focus. In addition to the most basic gesture of respect such as giving your referee ample advance warning and therefore time to compose a meaningful letter and make submissions, you may consider the use of an occasional note of thanks, or, of keeping your referee abreast of the outcomes of whatever you have applied for. As you may be requesting

letters of reference for years to come, it may stand you in good stead to keep your referees abreast of major developments in your professional life.

Disabilities: Rhodes College makes every effort to provide appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students may request accommodations by making an appointment to speak to Melissa Butler, the Coordinator of Disability Services.

Phone: 843 3944.

E-Mail: mbutler@rhodes.edu

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1: 01/15	Class Introductions Course Overview Leslie Marmon Silko: Ceremony
Week 2: 01/20	Leslie Marmon Silko: Ceremony
Week 2: 01/22	Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart
Week 3: 01/27	Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart Bill Ashcroft: Postcolonial Transformations: Introduction
Week 3: 01/29	Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness
Week 4: 02/03	Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness
Week 4: 02/05	Bill Ashcroft: Postcolonial Transformations: Resistance
Week 5: 02/10	Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North <i>Film: Berlin 1885: The Division of Africa</i>
Week 5: 02/12	Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North Bill Ashcroft: Resistance and Interpolation
Week 6: 02/17	1 st Third of Keri Hulme: The Bone People Bill Ashcroft: Language
Week 6: 02/19	2 nd Third of Keri Hulme: The Bone People Bill Ashcroft: History
Week 7: 02/24	Final 3 rd of Keri Hulme: The Bone People Bill Ashcroft Resistance and Interpolation
Week 7: 02/26	Keri Hulme: The Bone People (overview) Bill Ashcroft: Language

I hand out questions for Mid-Term Take-home exam

- Week 8: 03/03 Bill Ashcroft: History
- Week 8: 03/05 Bill Ashcroft: Language, History, Resistance (overview)
You hand me your Mid-Term exam answers
By noon, hard copy in my door box, and email copy too.
- Week 9: 03/10 Spring Break
- Week 9: 03/12 Spring Break
- Week 10: 03/17 1st 3rd of Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient
Ashcroft: Allegory
- Week 10: 03/19 2nd 3rd of Ondaatje: The English Patient
- Week 11: 03/24 Final 3rd of Ondaatje: The English Patient
Ashcroft: Place
- Week 11: 03/26 Ondaatje: The English Patient (overview)
Ashcroft: Place, Language, History, Resistance
- Week 12: 03/31 First 3rd: Toni Morrison: Beloved
Ashcroft: Habitation
- Week 12: 04/02 Easter Break
- Week 13: 04/07 Second 3rd: Toni Morrison: Beloved
Bill Ashcroft: Place and Habitation
- Week 13: 04/09 Final 3rd: Toni Morrison: Beloved
Ashcroft: Horizon and Globalization
- Week 14: 04/14 Toni Morrison: Beloved (overview)
- Week 14: 04/16 Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things
- Week 15: 04/21 Journeys into Cultural Awareness: With Psychology
I hand out questions for Final Take-home Exam
- Week 16: 04/23 Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things
Mandatory Attendance of Paul Guillory's Lecture
- Week 16: 04/28 Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things

Week 17: 04/30

Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things

Week 17: 05/04
05/06

Term Paper Due at noon, in my door box and by email
You give me your Final Take-Home Exam Answers:
By noon, hard copy in my door box, and email copy too.

End...