

**Post-Colonial Literature**  
*An Introduction to Reading Literature  
from Post-Colonial Perspectives*

English 375-01 Spring 2011  
Tue & Thu 8.00-9.15am: Palmer 211  
Prof Mark Behr, Palmer 308, Tel: 843 3979  
Office Hours: Tue & Thu 10 am to 12pm, or by appointment

**Aims:** In this course we read and discuss seven 20<sup>th</sup> Century novels and two books of theory that can be understood as dealing in different ways with the past five hundred years of colonial and post-colonial history. The aim of the course is to foster post-colonial 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. Through an exploration of fiction in conjunction with theory we seek to understand the primary concerns of post-colonial textual analysis, its key concepts and a number of the field's contemporary debates.

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

**Secondary Texts:** 1. Edward Said: *Orientalism*. Bill Ashcroft: *Post-Colonial Transformation*.

**Grades will be determined as follows:**

Mid-term exam:	20%
Term Paper:	40%
Final 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 reschedule with me.

**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 secondary sources such as journal articles and 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 post-colonial literary theory.

No term papers that are handed in after the deadline will be accepted. Format: Times New Roman, Twelve Point Font, Double Spaced.

**Attendance:**

You are allowed four *excused* absences. Absences are not excused unless you have offered me a reasonable motivation such as illness, disease or disaster *before class*. After four 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 two unexcused absences. 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 two hours of reading per day in addition to work on your term paper and your take-home exams 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.

**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](mailto:mbutler@rhodes.edu)

**Schedule of Classes:**

Week 1: 01/13:

Class Introductions

Course Overview

Toni Morrison: Nobel Lecture

Week 2: 01/18: Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart

Week 2: 01/20: Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart

Week 3: 01/25 Edward Said: Orientalism (pp1-197)

Week 3: 01/27 Edward Said: Orientalism (pp199-352)

Week 4: 02/01: Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness

Week 4: 02/03 Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness  
Bill Ashcroft: Post Colonial Transformation: Introduction  
and Resistance

Week 5: 02/08: Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North

Week 5: 02/10: Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North  
Bill Ashcroft: Resistance and Interpolation

Week 6: 02/15: Keri Hulme: The Bone People

Week 6: 02/17: Keri Hulme: The Bone People

Week 7: 02/22: Keri Hulme: The Bone People  
Bill Ashcroft: Language

Week 7: 02/24: Keri Hulme: The Bone People  
Bill Ashcroft: History

Week 8: 03/01: Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient

Week 8: 03/03 Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient

Week 9: 03/08 Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient  
Bill Ashcroft: History

Week 9: 03/10 Midterm Exam

Week 10: 03/15 Spring Break

Week 10: 03/17 Spring Break

Week 11: 03/22 Bill Ashcroft: Allegory

Week 11: 03/24 Toni Morrison: Beloved

Week 12: 03/29	Toni Morrison: Beloved
Week 12: 03/31	Toni Morrison: Beloved
Week 13: 04/05	Toni Morrison: Beloved Bill Ashcroft: Place
Week 13: 04/07	Toni Morrison: Beloved Bill Ashcroft: Habitation
Week 14: 04/12	Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things
Week 14: 04/14	Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things
Week 15: 04/19	Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things Bill Ashcroft: Horizon & Globalization
Week 15: 04/21	Easter Weekend
Week 16: 04/26	Film: Reid and Hoffman: <i>Long Night's Journey Into Day</i>
Week 16: 04/28	Film: Roman Polanski: <i>Death and The Maiden</i> Based on the play by Ariel Dorfman
Week 17:	Final Exam
Week 17: 05/05	Term Paper Due
	Final Grades Due in to Registrar on 05/09

End...