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ENGL 375-01, Post Colonial Literature, Spring 2013

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

English 375-01 Spring 2013
Tue & Thu 3.30-4.45
Prof Mark Behr, Palmer 308, Tel: 843 3979
Office Hours: Wed 1pm-4pm, or by appointment

Aims: In this course we read and discuss seven 20th Century novels and a number of films that deal 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 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 post-colonial 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. 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*.

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

Grades will be determined as follows:

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| 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, the theory text book as well as at least two academically accredited 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 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 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 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 for 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 (I'm turning fifty this year and I'm still requesting letters from my peers and former teachers), 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:

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| Week 1: 01/10: | Class Introductions Course Overview Toni Morrison: Nobel Lecture |
| Week 2: 01/15: | Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart |
| Week 2: 01/17: | Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart |
| Week 3: 01/22 | Bill Ashcroft: Postcolonial Transformations: Introduction |
| Week 3: 01/24 | Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness |
| Week 4: 02/29: | Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness |
| Week 4: 02/31 | Bill Ashcroft: Postcolonial Transformations: Resistance |
| Week 5: 02/05: | Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North |
| Week 5: 02/07: | Tayeb Salih: Season of Migration to the North Bill Ashcroft: Resistance and Interpolation |
| Week 6: 02/12: | Bill Ashcroft Language Movie: The Mission (Class Discussion) [read 1 st Third of The Bone People] |
| Week 6: 02/14: | Bill Ashcroft History Movie: The Battle of Algiers (Class Discussion) [read 2 nd Third of The Bone People] |
| Week 7: 02/19: | Bill Ashcroft Resistance and Interpolation Movie: Once Were Warriors (Class Discussion) [read final 3 rd of The Bone People] |
| Week 7: 02/21: | Keri Hulme: The Bone People Bill Ashcroft: Language |
| Week 8: 02/26: | Keri Hulme: The Bone People Bill Ashcroft: History |
| Week 8: 02/28: | Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient Language, history, resistance |

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| Week 9: 03/05 | Michael Ondaatje: The English Patient Ashcroft: Allegory |
| Week 9: 03/07 | Ondaatje: The English Patient Take Home Exam |
| Week 10: 03/12 | Spring Break |
| Week 10: 03/14 | Spring Break |
| Week 11: 03/19 | Ashcroft: Place |
| Week 11: 03/21 | Toni Morrison: Beloved Ashcroft: Place, Language, History, Resistance |
| Week 12: 03/26 | Toni Morrison: Beloved |
| Week 12: 03/28 | Toni Morrison: Beloved Ashcroft: Habitation |
| Week 13: 04/02 | Toni Morrison: Beloved Bill Ashcroft: Place and Habitation |
| Week 13: 04/04 | Ashcroft: Horizon and Globalization |
| Week 14: 04/09 | Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things |
| Week 14: 04/11 | Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things |
| Week 15: 04/16 | Arundhati Roy: The God of Small Things |
| Week 15: 04/18 | Film: Discuss: Reid&Hoffman: Long Night's J Into Day |
| Week 16: 04/23 | Film: Discuss: Film: Roman Polanski: Death & Maiden Based on the play by Ariel Dorfman |
| Week 16: 04/25 | Film: Discuss: Tarantino: Django Unchained |
| Week 17: | Take-home Exam |
| Week 17: 03/05 | Term Paper Due |

End...