

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 2240 6.0B (Y)

Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures in English: African, Caribbean, South Asian and the South Pacific

Course Director:

Vernonja R. Alston

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Office Hours: Fall Term-Mondays 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, videoconferencing by appointment. Winter Term-Videoconferencing by appointment.

Course Meetings: This is a blended course; at least one-third of the course meetings will take place in an online format. In-class meetings during the Fall Term will take place on Mondays 11:30 am – 2:20 pm. Nearly all, if not all, of the Winter Term will take place online.

Delivery Format:

BLN

Time:

Monday 11:30-2:30pm

Description:

This course provides a selective overview of major concepts, problems, contexts, events, genres, and writers in Indigenous North America, New Zealand, Africa, the Caribbean, and South Asia, writing in English from the last decade of the 20th century through 2018.

Although lectures will provide students with an overview of the literary history, the focus of this course is on contemporary literature, on writers writing today. Because these literatures comprise an immense and diverse expanse of cultures, voices, styles, positions, geographical differences, and kinds of writing, no single course can possibly represent the fullness of their literary expression. Since many writers from these regions have relocated to other countries, this course highlights the many transnational affiliations between and among all national literary traditions.

Organized by area and genre, this course introduces students to popular genre fiction, including science fiction, speculative fiction, fantasy, crime/detective fiction, comics/graphic novels, as well as literary non-fiction, poetry, drama and film. We question the distinctions often made between high (or literary) fiction and popular, middle-brow, or low-brow literature. How do these distinctions reproduce cultural and social relations of power? Finally, this course introduces students to the tools and skills necessary for conducting research in, and writing criticism of, these literary and film genres.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Fall Term take-home essay (1000 words).....	10%
Fall Term take-home examination.....	15%
Winter Term take-home essay (1500 words).....	15%
Fall Term Group Seminar Presentation	15%*
Participation.....	20%*
Final Research Proposal.....	5%
Final Research Essay.....	20%

*Students will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of their contributions to tutorial discussion, their abilities to articulate theses and discussions questions consistent with the purpose and themes of the course, to stay on topic, and to advance logical and coherent arguments. Online discussions constitute 70% of the overall participation grade. Weekly discussion questions will be posted during the online portion of the course. Students are expected to formulate and post thoughtful arguments in response to those questions. Students may be excused without penalty from submitting no more than two postings to online discussion forums. Although we continue to read, the Winter Term will be more writing-intensive, allowing students to hone their research and writing skills in preparation for writing the final research essay.

Reading List:

- Abani, Chris. *The Face: Cartography of the Void*. Brooklyn, NY: Restless Books, 2013.
- Abani, Chris. *The Secret History of Las Vegas*. New York: Penguin, 2014.
- Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*. Toronto, ON: Vintage Canada, 2017.
- Chariandy, David. *I've Been Meaning To Tell You: A Letter To My Daughter*. Toronto, ON: McClelland & Stewart, 2018.
- Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves*. Toronto, ON: Cormorant Books, 2017.
- Grace, Patricia. *Potiki*. Capuchin Classics, Reissue Edition 2009.
- Mailhot, Terese Marie. *Heart Berries: A Memoir*. Toronto, ON: Doubleday Canada, 2018.
- Mukoma wa Ngugi. *Nairobi Heat*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House Publishing, 2010.
- Okorafor, Nnedi. *Binti*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates Book, 2015.
- Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 1997.
- Saul, Quincy, ed. *Maroon Comix: Origins and Destinies*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2018.
- Varma, Rahul. *Truth and Treason*. Toronto, ON: Mawenzi House Publishers, 2017.

Other required readings:

Copies of poems, plays, and essays will be made available through the online course site.

Open To:

YR 2, 3