

School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies

ENGL 330: Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

Second trimester, 2006

Course information and lecture programme

Course co-ordinator	James Meffan (mailto:James.Meffan@vuw.ac.nz, VZ903, ph. 463 6807)
Lecturers	James Meffan Alice Te Punga Somerville Simon Cooke Erin Scudder
Lecture times	Monday and Thursday, 11 – 11.50 am, Easterfield LT 206
Workshops	Weekly workshops will be held in place of tutorials. These will begin in the second week of term. They will be on Fridays, in the regular lecture theatre at the regular lecture time (i.e. 11 – 11.50 am, Easterfield LT 206). Attendance at 70% of workshops is a mandatory course requirement.
Texts	<i>ENGL 330 Class Notes</i> (Student Notes); Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> ; Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ; Buchi Emecheta, <i>The Joys of Motherhood</i> ; J.M. Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ; Albert Wendt, <i>The Mango's Kiss</i> ; Hanif Kureishi, <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> .

Prerequisites

Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature is a 24-point paper at ENGL 300 level, and will be of particular relevance to students with interests in 20th century fiction. Students interested in colonial history and postcolonial politics will also find this paper valuable.

The prerequisites for enrolment in ENGL 330 are 44 points from ENGL 201-299. Applications from other students will be considered, and should be referred to either the co-ordinator, or Professor Robert Easting (Head of School).

Course Aims and Objectives

This course covers a range of twentieth century novels, reading them in relation to the historical events of modern colonialism through which European nations extended their imperial control over much of the world. The course will provide an introduction to some of the theoretical and critical issues relevant to postcolonial studies (and literary analysis in general) in twentieth century fiction. In addition to set novels, required reading includes selected non-fictional writing, in the form of postcolonial criticism and critical commentary on the novels. These readings are a crucial component of the course and are collected in the ENGL 330 Coursebook (Student Notes).

The paper aims to:

- a) provide an overview of literary representations of aspects of the colonial project through the twentieth century, by writers of European and non-European descent;

- b) provide an introduction to some of the theoretical and critical issues relevant to postcolonial study of twentieth century fiction;
- c) develop the skills of attentive reading through close analysis and discussion in relation to the set novels;
- d) develop the skills of theoretical analysis and discussion in relation to the set novels and selected non-fictional writings;
- e) build on students' knowledge and appreciation of literature and provide the critical and analytical tools necessary for a progression to graduate studies.

Students should therefore:

- a) become familiar with the thought, form, techniques and language of the set novels;
- b) gain an understanding of the general nature of twentieth century fiction in relation to the social, cultural and theoretical contexts to which it belongs;
- c) develop skills in alert and informed reading, and in the oral and written processes of literary discussion, especially in critical analysis and evaluation in the form of reading reports and an extended essay at a level appropriate to graduates majoring in English Literature.

Assessment

Assessment is by a combination of term work and final exam. Term work and final exam are each worth 50% of the final mark. Assessment has been structured to meet the aims and objectives of the paper and to ensure coverage of most of the novels and critical material on the paper. Both in-term and exam questions will develop and assess the ability to read literary and critical works specifically and competently. Final examination (3 hours) 50%; eight brief reading reports (worth 30% in total); and one compulsory in-term essay (20%).

Coursework (50%)

Reading Reports (see below for topics and due dates): there are 8 reading reports in total (all are compulsory) each worth 3.75% of your final mark. An essay of 2000 words is due on **Friday 22 September, 5pm**. This essay is worth 20% of your final mark.

The essay and reading reports should be handed in to the English department administration.

Written work must conform to the standards and guidelines set out in **SEFT Guidelines for Students** and **SEFT Handbook for Students of English Literature** (available at the Student Notes Distribution Centre and on the SEFTMS website).

Examination (50%)

The three-hour final examination is a **closed book exam**. In 2006 the exam will comprise two sections:

- a) Section One will ask you to write two essays, each on a different novel. You may not discuss novels already written on in term work. Each essay in this section will be worth 25% of the exam grade. There will be a choice of two questions on each of the novels studied on the course;
- b) Section Two will ask you to write a comparative essay on two novels in relation to one of a selection of several topics. You may not discuss texts discussed in Section One of the exam or in term work, except in passing. This essay will be worth 50% of the exam grade.

Extensions

You are expected to arrange an extension with the course co-ordinator **in advance** if for any reason you are not able to complete coursework by the due dates. The **final** deadline for any written work is **Friday October 13**. No work will be accepted after this date.

Late work submitted without an extension will be counted as long as it is received by the final due date (13 October). You will, however, be penalised by a lowering of your grade (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B etc.), and comments on your work will be minimal.

Mandatory Course Requirements

You are required to attend lectures and workshops regularly; at least eight workshops should be attended. All written work must be completed and handed in, and the three-hour final examination must be completed at the end of the course. Failure to meet the mandatory requirements for this course will leave you with an ungraded fail.

Workload

A paper in the novel inevitably entails considerable time spent reading (and re-reading) set texts. In addition to the reading of set texts you are also required to spend time reading the critical and theoretical writings set for the paper and attending lectures and workshops. University guidelines recommend an average of 16 hours work a week for a course at this level and of this duration.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy

For information on the following topics, see the corresponding Blackboard files:

Academic Grievances

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Student and Staff Conduct

Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments

Student Support.

Reading Reports

Reading reports are due on most Fridays during term time. They should be submitted through the essay box on the 8th floor of von Zedlitz.

Detailed topics for reading reports will be made available on Blackboard well in advance of the report due date.

Reports should not exceed 400 words as an absolute maximum, and should include a basic bibliography.

Week	Due date	Report Topic
Week 1	--	No report due
Week 2	21 July	Report 1: Colonialism and postcolonialism
Week 3	28 July	Report 2: Orientalism
Week 4	4 August	Report 3: Language
Week 5	11 August	Report 4: Feminism and postcolonialism
Week 6	18 August	Report 5: Cultural report
		MID-TRIMESTER BREAK
Week 7	8 September	Report 6: Migration and circulation
Week 8	15 September	Report 7: The politics of representation
Week 9	22 September	No report (essay due)
Week 10	29 September	Report 8: Culture and authenticity
Week 11	--	No report due
Week 12	--	No report due

Timetable

Lecture programme, 2006 ENGL 330 Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

Lectures: Monday and Thursday, 11-11.50; Easterfield LT 206

Workshops: Friday, 11-11.50; Easterfield LT 206

Lecturers: James Meffan (JM); Alice Te Punga Somerville (AT); Erin Scudder (ES); Simon Cooke (SC);

Week 1	July	10	Introduction: colonialism and postcolonialism	JM
		13	The imperial archive	JM
		14	Workshop	
Week 2		17	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	JM
		20	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	JM
		21	Workshop	
Week 3		24	Claiming a voice: writing back to empire	JM
		27	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
		28	Workshop	
Week 4	Aug	31	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
		3	Multiple oppressions: race and gender	JM
Week 5		4	Workshop	
		7	<i>The Joys of Motherhood</i>	JM
		10	<i>The Joys of Motherhood</i>	JM
Week 6		11	Workshop	
		14	Politics of identity, politics of difference	JM
		17	Representing the Pacific: <i>The Beach at Falesa</i>	AT
18 Workshop				
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK – 21 August – 3 September				
Week 7	Sept	4	<i>The Mango's Kiss</i>	AT
		7	<i>The Mango's Kiss</i>	AT
		8	Workshop	
Week 8		11	The politics of representation	SC
		14	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	ES
		15	Workshop	
Week 9		18	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	ES
		21	Culture and authenticity	JM
		22	Workshop – Essay Due 5 pm	
Week 10		25	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Foe</i>	JM
		28	<i>Foe</i>	JM
		29	Workshop	
Week 11	Oct	2	<i>Foe</i>	JM
		5	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
		6	Workshop	
Week 12		9	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
		12	From global to local	JM/AT
		13	Workshop: Exam preparation	