

School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies

ENGL 330: Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

Second trimester, 2007

Course information and lecture programme

Course co-ordinator	James Meffan (email James.Meffan@vuw.ac.nz, room VZ903, phone 463 6807)
Lecturers	James Meffan Anna Jackson Tim Garlick
Lecture times	Tuesday and Wednesday, 3.10 – 4.00 pm, Murphy LT 220
Workshops	Weekly workshops will be held in place of tutorials. These will begin in the second week of term. They will be on Thursdays, in the regular lecture theatre at the regular lecture time (i.e. 3.10 – 4.00 pm, Murphy LT 220). Attendance at 70% of workshops is a mandatory course requirement.
Texts	<i>ENGL 330 Class Notes</i> (Student Notes); Joseph Conrad, 'Heart of Darkness' (in <i>Fictions of Empire</i>); Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> ; Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ; Andrea Levy, <i>Small Island</i> ; Robert Louis Stevenson, 'The Beach at Falesa' (in <i>Fictions of Empire</i>); David Malouf, <i>Remembering Babylon</i> ; J.M. Coetzee, <i>Foe</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 Associate Professor Peter Whiteford (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%; six 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 six reading reports in total (all are compulsory) each worth 5% of your final mark. An essay of 2000 words is due on **Thursday 20 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 2007 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 12**. 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 (12 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. It is strongly recommended that you develop regular reading habits to ensure that you have read set fiction and critical writing before it is discussed in class.

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 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	20 July	Report 1: Colonialism and postcolonialism
Week 3	27 July	Report 2: Representation and endorsement
Week 4	--	No report due
Week 5	10 August	Report 4: Language
Week 6	17 August	Report 5: Feminism and postcolonialism
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK		
Week 7	7 September	Report 6: Cultural report
Week 8	--	No report due
Week 9	20 September	Essay due (no report due)
Week 10	--	No report due
Week 11	5 October	Report 6: Culture and authenticity
Week 12	--	No report due

Timetable

Lecture programme, 2007 ENGL 330 Modern Fiction: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

Lectures: Tuesday and Wednesday, 3.10 – 4.00 pm; Murphy LT 220

Workshops: Thursday, 3.10 – 4.00 pm; Murphy LT 220

Lecturers: James Meffan (JM); Anna Jackson (AJ); Tim Garlick (TG)

Week 1	July	10	Introduction: colonialism and postcolonialism	JM
		11	The imperial archive	JM
		12	No workshop	
Week 2		17	'Heart of Darkness'	JM
		18	'Heart of Darkness'	JM
		19	Workshop	
Week 3		24	Claiming a voice: writing back to empire	JM
		25	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
		26	Workshop	
Week 4	Aug	31	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	JM
		1	Multiple oppressions: race and gender	JM
		2	Workshop	
Week 5		7	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	AJ
		8	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	AJ
		9	Workshop	
Week 6		14	Politics of identity, politics of difference	JM
		15	<i>Representing the Pacific: 'The Beach of Falesa'</i>	JM
		16	Workshop	
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK – 20 August – 2 September				
Week 7	Sept	4	<i>Small Island</i>	JM
		5	<i>Small Island</i>	JM
		6	Workshop	
Week 8		11	<i>Remembering Babylon</i>	JM
		12	<i>Remembering Babylon</i>	JM
		13	Workshop	
Week 9		18	The politics of representation	TG
		19	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Foe</i>	JM
		20	Workshop – Essay Due 5 pm	
Week 10		25	<i>Foe</i>	JM
		26	<i>Foe</i>	JM
		27	Workshop	
Week 11	Oct	2	Culture and authenticity	JM
		3	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
		4	Workshop	
Week 12		9	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	JM
		10	From global to local	JM
		11	Workshop: Exam preparation	