

# ENGL 2331

## World Literature

### Introduction

This course introduces you to some of the major world/postcolonial authors. The postcolonial cultural production can be roughly divided into three overlapping phases: the works produced during the contact phase, the native responses to colonialism, and the postcolonial cultural production both from the global periphery and the diasporic authors. Postcolonialism is a dynamic, expansive, and contested field of literary study involving a high degree of multidisciplinary and theoretical innovation. This course will also introduce you to the early and current debates of the field and possibilities of the field in the future. We will pay special attention to the current state of high capital and neoliberal globalization and the artistic and critical responses being offered in resistance. We will read these texts of the global periphery not simply as crystallized versions of the cultures that they attempt to represent, but also use them as points of departure into a study of the larger power structures within which these texts are produced. In doing so we will also question our own place and privileged location within the academy and imagine the possibilities of making our work commensurate with the acts of semiotic and material resistance being offered to the reigning power structures by the cultures of the global south in the spirit of what Gramsci describes as the organic intellectuals. [LIT][SEP][SEP]Using printed texts and film, this course will introduce you to the current global negotiation of power, the articulation of native resistance to the imperatives of globalization, and the native attempts at achieving social justice. In doing so we will also touch upon the role of the nation-state within the current climate of neoliberal globalization and the global war on terror, the politics of the diasporic cultural production, and the possibilities of rhizomatic global popular alliances.

### Required Texts:

Class Reader

Occasional handouts/Course Reserves. [HO/RES]

### Course Policies and Requirements:

Students are expected to be prepared for class: This involves reading the assigned texts, and contributing their views in a collegiate and stimulating way. Attendance to online live sessions is mandatory.

#### Distribution of Points:

Response Journals 100 Points

Mid-Term Exam 400 Points  
Participation 100 Points  
Final Exam 400 Points  
Total 1000 Points

### **Response Journals (100 Points):**

Every week you will turn in a journal (through Canvas) responding to the readings assigned for the week. The journal should be minimum two pages, double-spaced, font 12 Times. Following are some, but not all, questions you may consider:

What does the text say about gender, race, ethnicity, class, nation, or power and what are your views about it?

Did you agree or disagree with the text's politics? why?

What is the text critiquing?

How can we relate this text to contemporary realities?

Does this text raise the question of justice? If so, how and for whom? • Does the text provide a politics for a better future?

How does the form compare to the metropolitan techniques of creative production? (For creative writing majors)

### **Mid-Term Exam (400 Points)**

The Mid-term will be given in the eighth week. The exam will include four essay questions. I will give you a comprehensive study guide a week before the exam.

### **Final Exam (400 Points)**

A cumulative final exam will be due on the date mentioned in the UNT exams program. I will give you the questions a week in advance and the take-home exam answers will be due through Canvas portal on the due date.

### **Class Participation (100 Points)**

As this is a discussion format class, your thoughtful participation in online classes is essential to the success of the class. I encourage collegiate, open, and thought-provoking questions.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend the online class sessions regularly. You will be in the danger of failing the course if you miss more than FOUR class sessions.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is against the law, and will result in automatic failure in the course. Simply stated, plagiarism is when you try to pass anyone else's work as your own or if you turn in your own work written for another class.

Please review UNT Policy on Academic Integrity for details.

## ADA

If you have a disability, please contact the campus ADA office and bring me the necessary documentation. I will try my best to accommodate you if you need any special instruction or assistance.

SENATE BILL 11 (“CAMPUS CARRY”). Students must read UNT’s policy on concealed handguns on campus, which I’ve posted on Blackboard (or see <http://campuscarry.unt.edu/untpolicy>.) Here I note that 1) only licensed persons may legally carry handguns on campus, and 2) this right only authorizes the licensed carrying of “handgun[s], the presence of which is not openly noticeable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.” Per policy, if a gun is “partially or wholly visible, even if holstered,” it’s not legal on campus, whether or not it’s licensed. I report all illegal activities to the UNT police, regardless of their nature.

“ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS.” All students should be aware of UNT’s guidelines for responding to “active shooter situations” (see <http://emergency.unt.edu/get-prepared/Active-Shooter>).

## Grading Scale:

A 900-1000

B 830-899

C 739-829

D 600-738

F Less than 600 Points

## Weekly Schedule

### Week One

Introduction to the course.

In-Class diagnostic Journal

New Terms: **Center/periphery**, [Colonialism](#), [Imperialism](#), [Third World](#)

### Readings:

“Introduction” 1-34

“In the World.” (97-99). [Kipling](#), “[The White Man’s Burden](#).” (100).

### Readings:

Achebe, “An Image of Africa,” (101-107), Frantz Fanon, “Black Skin White Masks,” (138-140)  
“From Wretched of the Earth” (107-110).

## **Week Two**

New Terms: [Binarism](#), **Othering**, **Going native**

Class Discussion: "In the World." Kipling.

Readings:

Achebe, "An Image of Africa," (101-107), Frantz Fanon, "Black Skin White Masks," (138-140) "From Wretched of the Earth" (107-110).

## **Week Three**

Class Discussion:

Achebe, "An Image of Africa," (101-107), Frantz Fanon, "Black Skin White Masks," (138-140) "From Wretched of the Earth" (107-110).

New Terms: [Diaspora](#), [Discourse](#)

Readings:

Aime Cesaire, "A Tempest," (111), Chinweizu, "Decolonizing the . . ." (114), Ngugi "Creating space . . ." (117-121)

## **Week Four**

Class Discussion: Aime Cesaire, "A Tempest," (111), Chinweizu, "Decolonizing the . . ." (114), Ngugi "Creating space . . ." (117-121)

New Terms: [Hybridity](#), [Hegemony](#), [Dominance](#)

Readings:

P'bitek (167), Head, "The Deep River," (286)

## **Week Five**

Class Discussion: P'bitek (167), Head, "The Deep River," (286)

New Terms: [Native](#), [Nativism](#)

New Terms: [Authenticity](#), [Social Darwinism](#)

Readings:

Mahfouz, "Zaabalawi," (803), Rifaat, "My World of the Unknown," (247), Darwish, "Identity Card (136)

## **Week Six**

Class Discussion: Mahfouz, "Zaabalawi," (803), Rifaat, "My World of the Unknown," (247), Darwish, "Identity Card (136)

**New Terms:** [Subaltern](#), [Appropriation](#), [Abrogation](#)

Readings:

Mukherjee, "A Wife's Story," (306), Hossain, "Sultana's Dream," (122).

## **Week Seven**

Class Discussion: Mukherjee, "A Wife's Story," (306), Hossain, "Sultana's Dream," (122).

**New Terms:** Agency, [Mimicry](#)

Readings: Narayan, "A Horse and Two Goats," (143), Naipaul, "Our Universal Civilization," (304).

## **Week Eight**

Class Discussion: Narayan, "A Horse and Two Goats," (143), Naipaul, "Our Universal Civilization," (304).

Mid Term

Readings:

Marquez, "A Very Old Man . . ." (174), Fuentes, "The Prisoner of . . ." (178).

## **Week Nine**

Class Discussion: Marquez, "A Very Old Man . . ." (174), Fuentes, "The Prisoner of . . ." (178).

**New Term:** [Magic Realism](#)

Readings:

Readings: Rushdie "The Courter" (289), Desai "The Farewell Party" (278), Cisneros "Never Marry a Mexican" (312)

## **Week Ten**

Class Discussion: Readings: Rushdie "The Courter" (289), Desai "The Farewell Part" (278), Cisneros "Never Marry a Mexican" (312)

**New Terms:** Neoimperialism, Militarization, Corporatization.

Reading

Things fall Apart