

Dr. George S. Diamond
Spring, 2008

Zinzendorf 307 610 – 861-1391
M-Th 1:30-3:00 PM

English 240 POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE

I. The object of POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE is an introductory study of the literature produced by twentieth century African, Asian, and Caribbean writers of former colonies of Western European empires, especially Britain. Although the material is literary, the approach in this course is historical, political, and cultural as well.

II. After an initial consideration of Post-Colonial theory and theorists, the class will study individual works of fiction, originally written in English, representing as wide a variety of former colonies as possible.

III. Through lectures and class discussion, collaborative panel presentations, individual reports, and peer group investigations and discussions, the class will study the colonial and post-colonial experience as historical, political, and cultural phenomena. Students will be responsible for reading and studying a variety of works, viewing five films on line, and participating in class discussions, panel presentations, and peer group investigations.

IV. To fulfill the course requirements, students will do the following:

- a. read appropriate essays, stories, and novels by post-colonial writers, theorists, and critics;
- b. view five films, on line;
- d. present two oral reports: the first, individual, of around 5 minutes, on any aspect of post-colonialism; the second, as part of a panel, of around 20 minutes, on one of the long works;
- e. complete a mid-term and a final examination on the course material: examinations will be composed of short answer and essay questions;
- c. write an essay of sufficient length on some aspect of the course based upon library and on-line research.

V. Attendance policy for English 240 is based on the attendance statement on of the Moravian College Catalog: read, date, sign, and submit the accompanying paper.

VI. Papers and essay examinations will be expected to adhere to a minimum quality of Standard English and adhere to the

Statement on Academic Honesty, found in both the catalog and the student handbook.

VII. All students are required to attend one public event related to Post-Colonialism. Date, time, and any costs will be announced after the term begins.

Texts:

Chinua Achebe, THINGS FALL APART, 1958
J.M. Coetzee, THE LIFE & TIMES OF MICHAEL K, 1983
Buchi Emecheta, KEHINDE, 1994
A. Gurnah, PARADISE, 1994
Jamaica Kincaid, AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MY MOTHER, 1996
Hanif Kureishi, THE BLACK ALBUM, 1991
V. S. Naipaul, THE MYSTIC MASSEUR, 1957
Samuel Selvin, THE LONELY LONDONERS, 1956,
Wole Soyinka, DEATH & THE KING'S HORSEMAN, 1976

+ handouts

Films:

EAST IS EAST (1999) Damien O'Donnell, dir.
MASTER HAROLD & THE BOYS (1971) Michael Lindsay-Hogg, dir.
MONSOON WEDDING (2001) Mira Nair, dir.
MY SON THE FANATIC (1997) Udayan Prasad, dir.
V. S. NAIPAUL (2000), Films for the Humanities & Sciences

Selected Resource Material:

- D. Ahluwalia, POLITICS & POST-COLONIAL THEORY: AFRICAN INFLECTIONS [electronic resource]
- B. Ashcroft, THE EMPIRE WRITES BACK: THEORY AND PRACTICE IN POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES
- B. Ashcroft, KEY CONCEPTS IN POST-COLONIAL STUDIES
- B. Ashcroft, POST-COLONIAL STUDIES: the key concepts
- E. Benson & L. Conolly, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES IN ENGLISH
COLONIAL DISCOURSE & POST-COLONIAL THEORY: A READER
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES IN ENGLISH
GENDERING THE SPIRIT: WOMEN, RELIGION & THE POST-COLONIAL RESPONSE
- F. Jussawalla, INTERVIEWS WITH WRITERS OF THE POST-COLONIAL WORLD
- D. Kiberd, INVENTING IRELAND
- R. King, ORIENTALISM & RELIGION [electronic resource]
- G. Krozewski, MONEY & THE END OF EMPIRE [electronic resource]
D. A. Low, ECLIPSE OF EMPIRE NEW NATIONAL AND POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES: AN INTRODUCTION
POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES: EXPANDING THE CANON
POST-COLONIAL QUESTION, THE: COMMON SKIES, DIVIDED HORIZONS [electronic resource]

POST-COLONIAL STUDIES READER, THE
REMEMBERING AFRICA

E. Shohat & R. Stam, MULTICULTURALISM, POSTCOLONIALITY, &
TRANSNATIONAL MEDIA

G. Spivak, THE POST-COLONIAL CRITIC: INTERVIEWS,
STRATEGIES, DIALOGUES

D. Walder, POST-COLONIAL LITERATURES IN ENGLISH: HISTORY,
LANGUAGE, THEORY

Useful Post-Colonial Websites:

Afrique Francophone @ CUNY

<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/deanhum/langlit/french/afrique.html>

Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies

<http://www2.gasou.edu/bcps/journal/>

Jouvert: Volume 6. Issues 1 - 2

<http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/jouvert/v6i1-2/con61.htm>

Literary Resources - Other National Literatures (Lynch)

<http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/other.html>

Post Colonial Literature

<http://207.239.98.44/postcolonialliterature.htm>

Postcolonial & Postimperial Literature: An Overview

<http://www.scholars.nus.edu.sg/landow/post/index.html>

STG Projects: Postcolonial & Postimperial Literature Description

<http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/indexcard/displaycard.php3?card=27>

1. T Ja 15 Course introduction, reading & assignments, toward
a definition of the Post-Colonial and Post-Colonial literature.

Th Ja 17 **Selections from Post-Colonial Theoretical works and Theorists: Franz Fanon, THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH (1961); Selections from Edward Said, ORIENTALISM: WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE ORIENT (1978).**

2. T Ja 22 Selections from Homi K. Bhabha, NATION & NARRATION
(1990).

Th Ja 24 Selections from Terry Eagleton, NATIONALISM,
COLONIALISM, & LITERATURE (1990); Bart Moore-Gilbert, POSTCOLONIAL
THEORY: CONTEXTS, PRACTICES, POLITICS (1997).

3. T Ja 29 I. Stirrings: When and how did it all begin?--
Joseph Conrad, *Britain*, THE HEART OF DARKNESS (1902).

Th Ja 31 Rabindranath Tagore, *India*, "The Broken Nest"
(1901); Rudyard Kipling, *Britain*, "The Man Who Would Be King"
(1921).

4. T Fb 5 II. The Irish Question! James Joyce, *Ireland*,
DUBLINERS (1916), selected stories.

Th Fb 7 DUBLINERS; William Butler Yeats, *Ireland*, Selected Poems.

5. T Fb 12 III. The Sun Never Sets--The British In Africa
Chinua Achebe, *Nigeria*, THINGS FALL APART (1958).

Th Fb 14 THINGS FALL APART; Wole Soyinka, *Nigeria*, DEATH & THE KING'S HORSEMAN, 1976.

6. T Fb 19 J. M. Coetzee, *South Africa*, THE LIFE & TIMES OF MICHAEL K (1983).

Th Fb 21 A. Gurnah, *Zanzibar*, PARADISE (1994).

7. T Fb 26 IV. The Raj & its Aftermath: Farrukh Dhondy, India, Selected Works.

Th Fb 28 Salman Rushdie, *India*, Selected Works. MONSOON WEDDING (1991).

8. T Mr 11 Hanif Kureishi, *Pakistan*, THE BLACK ALBUM (1991)
Aamer Hussein, *Pakistan*, Selected Works.

Th Mr 13 Mid-Term Examination.

9. T Mr 18 MY SON THE FANATIC (1997); EAST IS EAST (1999).

Th Mr 20 V. The Caribbean Islands: Derek Walcott, St. Lucia, Selected Works.

10. T Mr 25 Jamaica Kincaid, *Dominica*, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MY MOTHER, 1996. Research Paper Subject Due in Writing.

Th Mr 27 V.S. Naipaul, *Trinidad*, THE MYSTIC MASSEUR (1957).

11. T Ap 1 VI. Adjusting (or not) to the Western, Post-Colonial World; Samuel Selvin, *Trinidad*, THE LONELY LONDONERS (1956).

Th Ap 3 Research Paper Library Visit.

12. T Ap 8 THE LONELY LONDONERS; Buchi Emecheta, *Nigeria*, KEHINDE (1994)

Th Ap 10 KEHINDE; Paule Marshall, *Barbados*, selected works.

13. T Ap 15 VII. The Settler Response: Nadine Gordimer, South Africa, Selected Works.

Th Ap 17 Athole Fugard, *South Africa*, MASTER HAROLD & THE BOYS (1984).

14. T Ap 23 Margaret Atwood, *Canada*, Selected Works; Patrick White, *Australia*, Selected Works; Research Paper Due.

Th Ap 25 Janet Frame, *New Zealand*, Selected Works; Course Evaluation Forms.

English 240 Post-Colonial Literature

A Checklist of Understanding for the Course

At the conclusion of English 240 the student should be able to:

1. Provide a basic and precise definition of the nature of Post-Colonialism and Post-Colonial literature;
2. Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of literary works that are identified as Post-Colonial;
3. Have a fundamental knowledge of the variety and breadth of critical and philosophical works that define and analyze post-colonialism and post-colonial literature;
4. Have a fundamental understanding of Colonialism and Post-Colonialism not as, simply, the conquering of one nation by another but as a phenomenon that has had profound historical, political, cultural, and psychological consequences for the conqueror as well as the conquered;
5. Have a fundamental understanding of how the Colonial and Post-Colonial experience has been and is being transformed by writers and other artists into a unique art with unique characteristics.
6. Demonstrate competence in participating in a panel analyzing a text, preparing effective oral and written analyses, and working well with others. And demonstrate competence in a variety of other written and oral assignments.