

Postcolonial Literature: African, Caribbean, and Latin American Writers
ENGL 240
W/F 2:35-3:45
Hurd 112

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to Postcolonial studies and the literature that critically engages colonial and Postcolonial moments in history. Postcolonial literature informs the political and cultural contexts of organized responses to colonial oppression. A certain set of critical concepts emerge in the themes of the literature, including space and dislocation, subaltern knowledge, and postcolonial feminism. These concepts (and others) reflect the social fabric of resistance movements that took place around the world, in a variety of nations throughout the colonial/postcolonial eras. For this course, postcolonial literature includes African, Caribbean, and Latin American writers.

Course Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to introduce and familiarize students with the themes and concepts that are reflected in postcolonial literature. Students will learn the general concepts of postcolonial literature and familiarize themselves with the body of critical literature within the fields of postcolonial studies.

Course Texts

Chinua Achebe *Things Fall Apart*, ISBN 9780385474542
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie *Half of a Yellow Sun*, ISBN 9781400095209
Isabel Allende *The House of Spirits*, ISBN 9780553383805
Edwidge Danticat *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, ISBN 9780375705045
Jamaica Kincaid *The Autobiography of My Mother*, ISBN 9780452274662
Gabriel Garcia Marquez *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, ISBN 9780060883287

Additional Readings will also be available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Class Participation and Attendance:	10%
Group Presentation:	10%
Quizzes (4):	15%
Paper 1:	15%
Paper 2:	20%

Final Paper:

30%

Class Policies

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Any student who has more than 2 unexcused absences will have his/her grade lowered significantly. For each unexcused absence beyond 2 the final grade will be lowered one step. For example with 3 unexcused absences a final grade of B+ will become a B and with 4 it becomes a B-. In order to have an absence excused, you either must talk to me before the class you miss or you must have a documented excuse.

Class Participation: Your participation in class discussion is an integral part of this course and, in turn, your grade. I hope you will all do your best to ensure that our class discussions are intellectually stimulating and enjoyable for everyone. I look for mature, respectful, and dynamic dialogue in my classroom. I expect you to have read the day's assignment carefully and to have given it considerable thought before you arrive in class. Indeed, the quality of your writing relies upon the quality of your thought, and the classroom is a space in which you will work through your thoughts on a text. Therefore, in order to write well, it is imperative that you attend class and participate.

Papers: You are required to compose three papers. These papers will be thesis-driven and follow MLA guidelines. Papers will be evaluated primarily on the quality of your ideas and the thoroughness of your critical argument (including appropriate citations of the text). Organizational, grammatical, and other writing matters will, however, also affect your grade. We will discuss these papers in further detail throughout the term. (Adapted from N. Tabor)

Group Presentation: You will be required to give one group presentation. Your group will summarize, historicize, and ask the class significant discussion questions related to your assigned topic as well as create/photocopy/distribute a handout. (Adapted from N. Tabor)

Quizzes: These in-class quizzes are short answer exercises that will cover the subject matter of the course up to that point (approximately 10-15 questions). You are expected to answer quiz questions in complete sentences and with as much specific detail as time and space will allow. Makeup quizzes will only be administered if absolutely necessary.

Late Assignments: Do not turn assignments in late. Only under exceptional circumstances will I accept late papers. In order to turn a paper in late, you must make arrangements with me *before* the due date; otherwise the grade drops one full letter grade with each late day.

Plagiarism: This course is about expressing *your* ideas through writing, not passing off another's ideas and words as your own. Please consult your Student Handbook for questions and concerns about proper citation.

Miscellaneous: **NO CELL PHONES.** Cell phones ringing in class are disruptive, distracting, and unnecessary. Make sure that your phone is either turned off or silenced before class begins. Text messages are equally unacceptable; if I see you texting, you will be marked absent for the day.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Moravian encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the event sponsor at least one week prior to the event. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support at [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401) (office located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support Office.

Reading Schedule: The reading schedule is *tentative*. Should any changes be made to the syllabus, I will announce these in class. It is your responsibility to make note and keep track of any changes.

***Note to English Majors: In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in your senior capstone seminar, please save both digital and hard copies of your work for this class, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Wed. Sept. 2 Course introduction

Fri. Sept. 4 Robert Young, "Introduction" and "Subaltern Knowledge"

Week 2

Wed. Sept. 9 Gabriel Garcia Marquez- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* 1-101

Fri. Sept. 11 Marquez- *One Hundred Years* 103-201

Week 3 Quiz

Wed. Sept. 16 Marquez- *One Hundred Years* 203-332

Fri. Sept. 18 Marquez- *One Hundred Years* 333-417

Week 4	
Wed. Sept. 23	Writing workshop. <i>Rough Draft of Paper One Due</i>
Fri. Sept. 25	<i>Paper One Due</i>
Week 5	
Wed. Sept. 30	Young, "Hybridity" Isabel Allende- <i>The House of Spirits</i> 1-141
Fri. Oct. 2	Allende- <i>The House of Spirits</i> 142-245
Week 6 Quiz	
Wed. Oct. 7	Allende- <i>The House of Spirits</i> 246-365
Fri. Oct. 9	Allende- <i>The House of Spirits</i> 366-433
Week 7	
Wed. Oct. 14	Young, "Globalization from a postcolonial perspective"
Fri. Oct. 16	Online Forum
Week 8	
Wed. Oct. 21	Young, "Postcolonial feminism" Edwidge Dandicat- <i>Breath, Eyes, Memory</i> 3-126
Fri. Oct. 23	Dandicat- <i>Breath, Eyes, Memory</i> 127-234
Week 9 Quiz	
Wed. Oct. 28	Jamaica Kincaid- <i>The Autobiography of My Mother</i> 3-128
Fri. Oct. 30	Kincaid- <i>The Autobiography of My Mother</i> 131-240
Week 10	
Wed. Nov. 4	Writing Workshop. <i>Rough Draft of Paper Two Due</i>
Fri. Nov. 6	<i>Paper Two Due</i>
Week 11	
Wed. Nov. 11	Young, "History and power, from below and above" Chinua Achebe- <i>Things Fall Apart</i> 3-110
Fri. Nov. 13	Achebe- <i>Things Fall Apart</i> 111-209

Week 12 Quiz

Wed. Nov. 18

Young, "Space and Land"

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie- *Half of a Yellow Sun* Part 1

Fri. Nov. 20

Ngozi Adichie- *Half of a Yellow Sun* Part 2

Week 13

Wed. Nov. 25

No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Fri. Nov. 27

No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

Wed. Dec. 2

Ngozi Adichie- *Half of a Yellow Sun* Part 3

Ngozi Adichie- *Half of a Yellow Sun* Part 4, 328-438

Fri. Dec. 4

Ngozi Adichie- *Half of a Yellow Sun* 439-541

Week 15

Wed. Dec. 11

Last Day of Class—Review and Evaluations

Mon. Dec 14

Final Paper due