

**ENGL 2310E Global Literatures in English Survey Course**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY, LONDON, ONTARIO  
FALL & WINTER 2014-2015  
**Time: Tuesday 6-9 PM Venue: TC-342 (Talbot College)**

**THIS SYLLABUS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS 9/9/2014.**

INSTRUCTOR: TAIWO ADETUNJI OSINUBI

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Fall Term Office Hours: Tuesday 2.30-5.30 Wednesdays 11-1

Winter Term Office Hours: Tuesday 2.30-5.30 Thursdays 2.30-4.30

TA: Shazia Shadaf Office: ON85 International and Graduate Studies Building

TA Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 10.30-11.30 (To be confirmed)

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to South Asian, Caribbean, and African literatures in English. Over the last four decades, these literatures have been studied under different rubrics such as commonwealth, post-colonial, and global literatures. Following an introduction to the histories of these terms, students will be introduced to authors from a range of cultural and historical contexts. We will study representative genres such as the novel, autobiography, drama, poetry, the short story, and the essay.

**PREREQUISITE(S):** Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [1022E](#) or [1024E](#) or [1035E](#) or [1036E](#) or both of [English 1027F/G](#) and [1028F/G](#) or permission of the Department.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

These texts are available at the UWO Bookstore. Please be sure to buy the editions available at the bookstore, otherwise you may not be able to follow citations that are made during lectures.

Achebe, Chinua.	<i>Things Fall Apart.</i>
Adichie, C. Ngozi.	"The Headstrong Historian." Course pack.
Ali, Agha Shahid.	<i>Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals.</i>
Ghosh, Amitav.	<i>The Shadow Lines.</i>
Kincaid, Jamaica.	<i>My Brother.</i>
Kneubuhl, Victoria.	<i>The Conversion of Ka'ahumanu.</i> Course pack.
Powell, Patricia.	<i>A Small Gathering of Bones.</i>
pBitek, Okot.	<i>The Song of Lawino.</i>
Suleri, Sara.	<i>Meatless Days.</i>
Singh, Vandana.	<i>The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories.</i>
Soyinka, Wole.	<i>Death and the King's Horseman.</i> Course pack.
Padmanabhan, Manjula.	<i>Harvest.</i> Course pack.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. To understand the category "global literatures in English"
2. To understand the circulation and functions of genres in global literatures
3. To understand basic chronologies, themes, movements, and convergences among representative writers from South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean
4. To prepare students for advanced courses in postcolonial literatures

**COURSE EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATION**

Final Exam:	35%
Research Paper:	20%
Mid-Term Test (In-class 2 hours):	15%
Essay 1:	10% 3 pages
Essay 2:	10% 3 pages
Participation:	10%

\*There is no December exam.

## SCHEDULE: LECTURES AND READINGS (ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES TBA)

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### TERM 1 FALL 2014

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- Week 1 September 9     **INTRODUCTION**  
*Things Fall Apart.*
- Week 2 September 16     **THE NOVEL: THE NATION IN FRAGMENTS**  
*Things Fall Apart.*  
**Essay 1 question distributed. Essay is due September 30.**
- Week 3 September 23     *Things Fall Apart* in criticism  
Essay Writing Workshop
- Week 4 September 30     “The Headstrong Historian.”  
Please watch Chimamanda Adichie’s TedxEuston Talk: “I am a Feminist” on  
YouTube. **Essay 2 question distributed. Essay is due October 21.**
- Week 5 October 7     *The Shadow Lines.*
- Week 6 October 14     *The Shadow Lines.*
- Week 7 October 21     *A Small Gathering of Bones.*
- Week 8 October 28     *A Small Gathering of Bones.*

### LIFE WRITING: RELATIONAL SELVES, DIASPORA

- Week 9 November 4     *My Brother.*
- Week 10 November 11     **MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS** (2 hours)
- Week 11 November 18     *My Brother.*
- Week 12 November 25     *Meatless Days.*
- Week 13 December 2     *Meatless Days.*

### TERM 2 WINTER 2015

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### DRAMA: RITUAL, FORGOTTEN HISTORIES, THE BODY POLITIC

- Week 1 January 6     Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King’s Horseman.*
- Week 2 January 13     Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King’s Horseman.*
- Week 3 January 20     Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest.*
- Week 4 January 27     Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest.*
- Week 5 February 3     Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, *The Conversion of Ka’ahumanu.*  
**Research paper question distributed. Essay is due March 10.**
- Week 6 February 10     Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, *The Conversion of Ka’ahumanu.*
- Week 0 February 17     Spring-break

### SHORT STORIES/SPECULATIVE FICTION

- Week 7 February 24     Vandana Singh, *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories.*
- Week 8 March 3     Vandana Singh, *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories.*

## **POETRY: ORAL TRADITIONS, TRANSCULTURAL POETICS**

Week 9 March 10	p'Bitek, Okot. <i>The Song of Lawino</i> .
Week 10 March 17	p'Bitek, Okot. <i>The Song of Lawino</i> .
Week 12 March 24	Ali, Agha Shahid. <i>Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals</i> .
Week 12 March 31	Ali, Agha Shahid. <i>Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals</i> .
Week 14 April 7	Examination Review

## **COURSE MECHANICS**

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### **PEDAGOGY**

The **teaching methodology** for this course comprises of lectures, in-class analysis, and group discussions. The course requires student participation; we will spend part of each class discussing individual responses to the readings. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and to come to class with questions about sections they would like to go over during discussion periods.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

**There will be a final exam, one mid-term exam and three essays:** two of these essays are short (3-page) papers and the final paper is a research paper of about eight pages. All essays will be graded on the basis of 1) the quality of the argument, 2) the attention to textual analysis, 3) the use of critical concepts we would have used in the course, 4) the organization of the essay (including its use of the MLA documentation style), and (the final paper) the quality of the research. For that last paper, students are expected to use at least TWO peer-reviewed sources.

The Final Exam will assess students' familiarity with the primary texts after the mid-term and key concepts discussed over the year. The mid-term will examine the novels and key secondary texts discussed up to that date. A list of all key concepts for the course will be on the course OWL site. **The use of texts, lecture notes, and electronic devices is not allowed during the mid-term and final exam.**

Each assignment in this course will come with a set of guidelines. There are, however, some basic guidelines for all assignments that are not written in class under exam conditions.

**NOTE:** Students must receive a passing grade for BOTH term work and the final exam in order to pass this course. Failing the final exam automatically implies a failing grade for the course irrespective of grades accrued prior to the final exam.

### **PARTICIPATION**

The participation grade covers attendance and contributions to discussions.

### **ESSAY FORMAT**

All papers must be submitted in the standard essay format. They must be typed in 12-point font on 8.5" x 11" white paper; they must be double-spaced and must have 1" margin on every page! All essays must have pagination: the page number must appear in the top right corner with the student's name preceding the page number—i.e. "Jones 7." Instead of a separate title page, students are required to provide the following information on the first page of their essays: 1) name and student number; 2) the names of the Professor and Teaching Assistant; 3) course title; 4) essay submission date. The title of the paper comes after this information. The title of the paper is centered, but the preceding information must be adjusted to the left.

### **PLEASE PROOFREAD YOUR ESSAYS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM!**

### **WRITING**

This is an essay and good **writing skills** are crucial to passing this course. We will devote time to learning the mechanics of writing essays on close readings of literary texts. We will also learn the basic components of the MLA citation style. Should students have any problems with the mechanics of university writing, they can avail themselves of the Writing Support Centre at the Student Development Centre (SDC) in the University Community Centre (UCC). Information about the SDC services can be found at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

All papers must follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation style. At its most basic, this implies that page numbers appears in parentheses after each citation and there is a Works Cited list at the end of the paper. The Department of English provides an overview of the MLA style. Students can use the "Guidelines for Properly Citing Sources" at: <https://instruct.uwo.ca/english/234e/site/essygdlns.html#Thesis>.

## **ESSAY SUBMISSION**

All assignments are due in class on the due date before class begins! Students must keep an extra hard copy of submitted written assignments. Students must also retain all copies of graded work until the final grades for this course are available. If students are unable to come to class, essays may also be submitted in the Department of English office (UC 173) or placed in the drop-box outside of the office. Such assignments will be considered submitted on the date the office staff retrieve them from the drop-box.

**Please do not email or fax assignments to the Professor or Teaching Assistants.**

## **LATE SUBMISSIONS**

Requests for extensions must be made in writing **before** the due date. Requests for extension can be sent to the Teaching Assistants or the Professor. Unapproved late submissions will be penalized 5% for each late day including Saturdays and Sundays. No assignment will be accepted ten days beyond the due date.

## **SCHOLASTIC OFFENSES (ESPECIALLY PLAGIARISM)**

The Department of English takes academic offenses seriously. All students signing up for this course are expected to familiarize themselves with the definitions of plagiarism, cheating, and all forms of academic fraud as defined in the UWO Academic Handbook. The handbook states: "Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense." All students are directed to read what constitutes scholastic offenses under the section "**SCHOLASTIC DISCIPLINE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**" at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholoff.pdf).

All students are expected to write their essays in their own words. Whenever writers use an idea or a phrase from another author, they are expected to acknowledge that use by using quotation marks and a parenthetical page reference in the body of the essay. Writers should also include the author in the list of Works Cited. The UWO Academic Handbook dictates that: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turniton.com (<http://www.turniton.com>)."

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Students who need to apply for academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed quizzes, exams, or assignments (over 10% of the final course grade) must contact the Office of the Academic Dean of their home faculty to submit a formal request for accommodation. The Department of English or individual instructors cannot consider such requests. All documentation/explanation for the absence or demand for special consideration must be submitted directly to the Dean's Office of the appropriate faculty. Students can find the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf). The details of the policy can be found in the section on appeals in the Academic Handbook: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The Dean's Office will determine if any request will be accommodated.

**Please note: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.**

## **ABSENTEEISM**

Excessive absenteeism is grounds for barring a student from taking the final examination. The 2012 Academic Calendar states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course" (p. 35).

## **CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

All students are required to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes an effective learning environment and according to Western University rules and regulations on classroom behavior. Since this is

a large class, our discussions will work best when everyone gets a chance to participate. The best comments tend to be pertinent to readings/discussions and offer insight into the ongoing inquiry. The most helpful questions also tend to be focused. It is sometimes better to avoid long comments or anecdotes that offer no specific insights.

Students are allowed to use laptops in the classroom to take notes on the lectures and discussions. They are NOT allowed to surf the Web, or engage in activities on social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter during class. Students who contravene this rule may expect to have their laptops banned or be asked to leave lectures. Should there be rampant abuse of this laptop rule, the Professor may ban all laptops from the classroom. Students are asked to SWITCH OFF ALL WIRELESS TRANSMISSION DEVICES. Students may not FILM, PHOTOGRAPH or RECORD the Professor or Teaching Assistants in any way without first asking and receiving permission. Such requests should be submitted by email.

### **COMMUNICATION**

We shall use several lines of communication throughout the course. Students may send the Professor and Teaching Assistants emails regarding any course related issues they would like to discuss, but please allow a window of at least 24 hours—excluding Saturdays and Sundays—for a response to emails. Students are also encouraged to come to office hours.

### Important Dates for the 2014-15 Academic Year

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Classes begin:	Thursday, September 4, 2014
Thanksgiving Holiday:	Monday, October 13, 2014
Fall Study Break:	Thursday, October 30th and Friday, October 31st, 2014
Classes end:	Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014 ( <u>final due date for all first-term half-course assignments</u> )
Mid-year Examination Period:	Saturday, December 6 - Wednesday, December 17, 2014
Classes resume:	Monday, January 5th, 2015
Family Day:	Monday, February 16th, 2015
Reading Week:	Monday, February 16th - Friday, February 20th, 2015
Good Friday:	Friday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015
Easter Sunday:	Sunday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Classes End:	Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 ( <u>final due date for all course assignments</u> )
Final Examination Period:	Saturday, April 11th – Thursday, April 30th, 2015