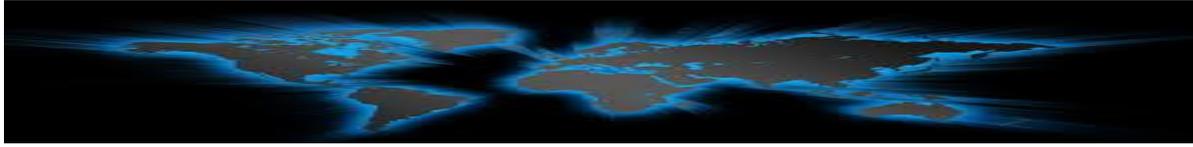


Department of English & Writing Studies



INSTRUCTOR: TAIWO ADETUNJI OSINUBI

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10.30-12.30 Thursday 12.30-2.30

Time: Tuesday 3.30-5.30 Thursday: 4.30-5.30 Venue: Talbot College 203

TA: TBA: Office Hours: TBA

ENGL 3882 THE GLOBAL NOVEL IN NEW AFRICAN WRITING (PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS)

The course provides an opportunity for students to discover how African writers have adapted the novel to imagine global connectivity from African perspectives. In a basic sense, the global novel straddles several countries and continents; it deals with global geopolitics since 9/11, scenarios of global migration, global capitalism, the increasing sense of an overall global interconnectedness, but also with new forms of global inequalities. In other words, this novel moves beyond national boundaries to make legible our global condition. Whereas some critics extol the virtues of the genre, others argue the genre produces depoliticized, homogenized world narratives. Over the course of the term, we will explore how African novelists re-structure the genre to capture nuanced reflections on the global condition.

Topics include: the category of the global witness; the novel and testimonial discourse; the novel as a commercial commodity; the novel and the question of literary value and cultural prestige; the novel and monolingualism; and, the novel and critical regionalism. We will read five novels and discuss essays provided in a course pack or available online through JSTOR.

Course Goals and Objectives, Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To familiarize students with the form of global novel.
2. To introduce students to “new” African writing and the prominence of the novel in contemporary African writing.
3. To strengthen critical skills in literary analysis and research.
4. To gain a deeper knowledge of African literary history and African geopolitics as expressed through literary form.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1036E or both of English 1027F/G, or permission of the Department. Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 course.

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.

COURSE EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATION

Final Exam:	35%	Research Paper:	25% 10-12 pages
Essay 1	15% 5 pages	Essay 2	15% 5 pages
Participation:	10%		

In the syllabus below, essays marked with * can be found online through a simple Google search and those marked ** are in the course pack.

Reading List:

Teju Cole. *Open City*. (2012)
NoViolet Bulawayo. *We Need New Names*. (2013)
M. G. Vassanji. *The Magic of Saida*. (2012)
Leila Lalami. *Hope And Other Dangerous Pursuits*. (2005)
Mark Behr. *Kings Of The Water*. (2010)

Schedule:

Week 1 January 5	Introduction The Global Novel and New African Writing Tim Parks, "The Dull New Global Novel."* Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to Write About Africa."* Taiye Selasi, "Bye-Bye Babar" & "Stop Pigeonholing African Writers." * Alexander Beecroft, "A World Literature without Hyphens."**
January 7	NoViolet Bulawayo, <i>We Need New Names</i>
Week 2 January 12, 14	NoViolet Bulawayo, <i>We Need New Names</i> Madhu Krishnan, "Writing Africa in a Global Marketplace."**
Week 3 January 19, 21	NoViolet Bulawayo, <i>We Need New Names</i> Franco Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature." **
Week 4 January 26, 28	Mark Behr, <i>Kings of Water</i> Olabode Ibironke, "African Writers Challenge ...Literary History."**
Week 5 February 2, 4	Mark Behr, <i>Kings of Water</i>
Week 6 February 9	Guest lectures Professor Gabeba Baderoon Penn State University Professor Neil ten Kortenaar University of Toronto
February 11	Deidre Lynch & William B. Warner, "The Transport of the Novel." 1-5. ** Simon Gikandi, "Transporting Fiction."**
Week 7 February 23, 25	Leila Lalami, <i>Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits</i>
Week 8 March 1, 3	Leila Lalami, <i>Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits</i>
Week 9 March 8, 10	M. G. Vassanji, <i>The Magic of Saida</i>
Week 10 March 15, 17	M. G. Vassanji, <i>The Magic of Saida</i>
Week 11 March 22, 24	Teju Cole, <i>Open City</i>
Week 12 March 29, 31	Teju Cole, <i>Open City</i>
Week 13 April 5	Review.

COURSE MECHANICS

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. I will spend time discussing the essays in the course pack. The course owl site is an important pedagogical tool. I will put up notes and explanations of key terms on the site.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a final exam and three essays: two of these essays are short (5 pages) papers and the final paper is a research paper of 10-12 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.

The Final Exam will assess students' familiarity with the primary texts and key concepts discussed during the course. 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 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.

Essay 1

5 pages, MLA format, 15% of final grade, due date: February 4

The formal question for this essay will be uploaded on the course OWL site January 19. The objective of this essay is to allow you to demonstrate your grasp of contemporary debates on the global novel in African writing and relate it to an analysis of *one* of the first two novels in the course. Specifically, the essay will ask you to respond to charges that the global novel cannot respond the complexity of African experiences. Following our lectures and introductory discussions, analyze how authors use characters' subjective experiences of cultural dislocation, global geopolitics, or migration to shape the aesthetic form of the novel.

Essay 2

5 pages, MLA format, 15% of final grade, due date: March 10

The formal question for this essay will be uploaded on the course OWL site March February 23. The objective of this essay is to have students recognize the functions of intertextuality and analogies of narrative circulation in contemporary African fiction. You will summarize and relate Alexander Beecroft's notion of literary ecologies to an analysis of *one* novel in the course. You may not write about the first two novels we discussed.

Essay 3: Research Paper

10-12 pages, MLA format, 25% of final grade, due date: March 31

The formal question for this essay will be uploaded on the course OWL site March February 23. For this essay, students are required to write a research paper, focusing on one novel and on a topic pertaining to the themes of the course. There are several pathways to finding a topic: You can develop one based on your interests; you can focus on a topic from class discussions or an issue that has appeared in our readings; or, you can also read critical responses to these novels and decide to respond to a critic. For the research component of the paper, I expect that you consult at least three scholarly sources that are fitting for your subject. Your use of secondary sources must reflect a through engagement with the arguments in the selected essays, book chapters, or entries.

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 10%

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/essayguidlns.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 (AHB) 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 2% 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/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

The details of the policy can be found in the section on appeals in the Academic Handbook:

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Dean’s Office will determine if any request will be accommodated. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western. For a complete list of options about how to obtain help, please visit: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

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. Students may NOT post. Students may not chat with each other while the Professor or Teaching Assistants are addressing the class.

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 WINTER TERM 2016

Term begins: Monday, January 4, 2016.
Family Day: Monday, February 15, 2016.
Reading Week: Monday, February 15-Friday, February 19, 2016.
Good Friday: Friday, March 25 & Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 27, 2016.
Classes End: Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Final Due Date for all Course Assignments.
Study Days: Thursday, April 7 & Friday, April 8, 2016.
Examination Period: Saturday, April 9-Saturday, April 30, 2016.
The official Undergraduate Sessional Dates can also be found at:
<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg7.html>.