

Department of English & Writing Studies

Global Literatures in English Survey**English 2601E (001)**

Fall/Winter 2018-19

Instructor: Taiwo AdeTUNJI Osinubi
University College 4430
tosinubi@uwo.ca
519 661 2111 x84310

Course Location: VAC-100

Course Date/Time: Tu. 10:30-11:30 am &
Th. 10:30-12:30 pm

Office Hours: Tuesday 13.00-15.00
Thursday 14.00-16.00

Prerequisites: 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.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from it and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

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 rubrics such as commonwealth, post-colonial, world and global literatures. The course will address the relations between postcolonial literary studies and literary globalism. Following an introduction to these terms, students will study works by authors from a range of cultural and historical contexts. Given the diversity of these authors, literary histories, and cultural contexts, the course will be structured around genres. We will look at the novel, autobiography, drama, poetry, the essay, and the short story. These writers respond engage with the consequences of colonialism, decolonisation, nationalism, and globalization in twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Understand the categories of *literary globalism*, *global literatures in English*, and *postcolonial literary studies*;
- Understand the forces and institutions that shape the production and circulation of literatures as well as the distinctiveness of literary genres;
- Understand basic chronologies, themes, and convergences among representative writers from South Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Caribbean;
- Identify how writers have responded to colonialism, decolonization, cultural and economic globalization, and technological developments in literature.

Course Materials

The texts listed above are required. Please check the Course Readings section for this course on the Weldon Library page: <https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/>. Note: We will look over the contents of this site on the first day of class. You will find articles and book chapters to which I make reference in lectures. The chapbook for Romeo Oriogun is also there

Required Texts:

These texts are available at the UWO Bookstore. Please try to buy the bookstore editions, otherwise you may not be able to follow citations that are made during lectures. Feel free to buy Kindle editions—if you wish.

Achebe, Chinua.	<i>Things Fall Apart.</i>
Chye, Thuan Kee.	<i>1984 Here and Now.</i> Course pack.
Danticat, Edwidge.	<i>Brother, I'm Dying.</i>
Ghosh, Amitav.	<i>Incendiary Circumstances.</i> [Selections] Course pack.
Isegawa, Moses.	"The War of the Ears." Course pack.
Karnad, Girish.	<i>Hayavadana.</i> Course pack.
Naipaul, V. S.	"Prologue to an Autobiography." Course pack.
Oriogun, Romeo.	<i>Burnt Men.</i> Weldon Library Course Readings Online. (https://ares.lib.uwo.ca/ares/)
Pilkington, Doris.	<i>Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence.</i>
Padmanabhan, M.	<i>Harvest.</i> Course pack.
Roy, Arundhati.	"The End of Imagination." Course pack.
Shelvon, Samuel.	<i>The Lonely Londoners.</i>
Sidhwa, Bapsi.	<i>Cracking India.</i>
Singh, Vandana.	Selected Short Fiction. Course pack.
Soyinka, Wole.	<i>The Trials of Brother Jero.</i> Course pack.

Methods of Evaluation

Final Exam: 35%	Mid-Term Test: 10%
Research Paper: 20%	Participation: 10%
Essay 1: 10%	Essay 2: 15%

Assignments and Due Dates:

Essay #1 Assigned September 20: Due October 16
In-class Mid-term Exam: November 1
Essay #2 Assigned November 20: Due December 6
Essay # 3 Research paper: Assigned February 28: Due March 21

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

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.

Assignments:

There will be a final exam, one mid-term exam and three essays: two of these essays are short (3-4 page) papers and the final paper is a research paper. 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 (for 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 concepts discussed up to that date. A list of all key concepts for the course will be on the course readings and OWL sites.

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.

Writing:

This is an essay course 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/>.

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 be placed in the drop-box outside of the Department of English office (UC). 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.**

Late Submissions:

Requests for extensions must be made in writing 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. Assignments will not be accepted ten days beyond the due date.

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>.

Absenteeism:

Excessive absenteeism is grounds for barring a student from taking the final examination. The [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.”

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.

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 in any way without first asking and receiving permission. Such requests should be submitted by email. Students may NOT email papers to the professor.

Communication:

Students may send the professor 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.

Key Dates 2018-19:

This information is provided for your convenience by the Undergraduate Office. Please see the Academic Calendar for additional Undergraduate Sessional Dates.

Classes begin: Thursday, September 6, 2018
Thanksgiving Holiday: Monday, October 8, 2018
Fall Reading Week: Tuesday, October 9 - Friday, October 12, 2018
Fall Term classes end: Friday, December 7, 2018
(Final due date for all first-term half-course assignments)
Study Days: Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9, 2018
Class resumes: Monday, January 7, 2019
Family Day: Monday, February 18, 2019
Spring Reading Week: Tuesday, February 19 - Friday, February 22, 2019
Winter Term classes end: Tuesday, April 9, 2019
(Final due date for all course assignments)

The official Undergraduate Sessional Dates can also be found at:

http://uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/important_dates.html.

Land Acknowledgment:

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

Reading List:

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2009.
- Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. "The Master." *Granta* 92 (Winter 2005): 10-41.
- Chye, Thuan Kee. *1984 Here and Now*. Gilbert, Helen, ed. *Postcolonial Plays: An Anthology*. London & New York: Routledge, 2013. 254-272.
- Danticat, Edwidge. *Brother, I'm Dying*. New York: Vintage, 2008.
- Eric, Speedy. *Mabel the Honey that Poured Away*. 153-222.
- Ghosh, Amitav. *Incendiary Circumstances: A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Times*. Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
- Isegawa, Moses. "The War of the Ears." 45-60. *Granta* 92 (Winter 2005): 45-60.
- Karnad, Girish. *Hayavadana*. Gilbert, Helen, ed. *Postcolonial Plays: An Anthology*. London & New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Naipaul, V. S. "Prologue to an Autobiography." *Literary Occasions: Essays*. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2004. 52-111.
- Oriogun, Romeo. *Burnt Men*. Abuja: Praxis Magazine, 2016.
- Pilkington, Doris. *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*. St. Lucia, Qld.: U of Queensland P, 2013.

Padmanahban, Manjula. *Harvest*. Gilbert, Helen, ed. *Postcolonial Plays: An Anthology*. London & New York: Routledge, 2013.

Roy, Arundhati. "The End of Imagination." *The Cost of Living*. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 1999. 91-26.

Shelvon, Samuel. *The Lonely Londoners*. London: Penguin, 2006.

Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India: A Novel*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1991.

Singh, Vandana. *The Woman Who Thought She Was A Planet: And Other Stories*. New Delhi: Penguin India, 2008.

Soyinka, Wole. *The Trials of Brother Jero. Collected Plays 2*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1974.

Timetable

Week 1	September 6 INTRODUCTION
Week 2-3	September 11/13 Postcolonial Globalism and the Novel September 18/20 <i>Things Fall Apart</i> . Essay#1 10%
Week 4-5	September 25/27/ <i>Cracking India</i> . October 2/4
Week 7-8	October 16/18/23 <i>The Lonely Londoners</i> . Essay #1 Due October 16
	October 25 <i>Mabel the Honey that Poured Away</i> .
Week 9	October 30 Globalism and the Novel: Summary. November 1 In-class Mid-Term 2 Hours 10%
Week 10-11	November 6/8/13/15 Cultural Circulation in Drama <i>Hayavadana</i>
Week 12	November 20/22 <i>Harvest</i> Essay#2 15%
Week 13	November 27/29 <i>The Trials of Brother Jero</i> .
Week 14	December 4/6 <i>1984 Here and Now</i> . Essay #2 Due.
Week 1	January 8/9 Introduction to Life Writing and the Essay Amitav Ghosh, "September 11." "The Ghosts of Mrs. Ghandi."
Week 2	January 15 Amitav Ghosh, "Tibetan Dinner." January 17 V.S. Naipaul, "Prologue to an Autobiography."
Week 3	January 22/24 Arundhati Roy, "The End of Imagination."
Week 4-5	January 29/31/5/ Danticat, Edwigde. <i>Brother, I'm Dying</i> .
Week 6	February 12/14 Pilkington, Doris. <i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i> .
Week 7	SPRING BREAK

Week 8	February 26/28 Oriogun, Romeo. <i>Burnt Men</i> . Essay #3 Assigned
Week 9	March 5/7 Isegawa, Moses. "The War of the Ears." Adichie, Chimamanda. "The Master."
Week 10	March 12/14 Singh, Vandana. "The Woman Who Thought She Was A Planet." & "The Tetrahedron."
Week 11	March 19/21 Singh, Vandana. "Hunger" "Infinities." Essay #3 Due March 21
Week 12-13	March 26/28/Apr. 4/6 Laila Lalami, <i>Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits</i> .
Week 14	April 9 REVIEW

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

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

Academic Offences (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. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and all students are directed to read what constitutes scholastic offenses at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the 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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.