

Department of English and Writing Studies

Global Literatures in English Survey

English 2601E (001)

Fall/Winter 2020-21

Instructor: Nigel Joseph

Delivery type: Online

Office hours: (Online) Fridays 10 am-1 pm

Antirequisites: English 2101, English 2361E, English 2362F/G, English 2363F/G and English 3884E, or the former English 2310E.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 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 this course 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.

Course Description

Global Literatures in English typically focuses on the novels, plays, poems and essays written in English by people from what used to be British colonies, or by people who have been, in one way or another, affected by colonialism. These texts, therefore, bear on them very clearly the marks of resistance to colonialism. They tend to be explicitly anti-racist, and insistently bear witness to the humanity and strength of traditions that were often denigrated or dismissed by the colonial powers. In a time like the present, when anti-racist struggles and the need for mutual cultural understanding have become some of the major moral imperatives in a globalized and interconnected world, such texts acquire a peculiar and lasting importance.

Objectives:

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

- Identify some of the most significant writers from Africa, India, Britain's immigrant population, and the Caribbean
- Identify themes associated with decolonization, canon formation, and the power of the printed text in a globalized world

Course Materials

Texts (required): These texts will be available at the Book Store. It is not necessary that you have the same edition that I have, so please feel free to purchase or share editions, or look for online editions.

Kiss of the Fur Queen by Tomson Highway

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Death and the King's Horseman by Wole Soyinka

Cracking India by Bapsi Sidhwa

Miguel Street by V.S. Naipaul

A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid

Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence by Doris Pilkington Garimara

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

In addition to these texts, we will read essays and articles by postcolonial theorists. These will be made available online after the course begins.

Methods of Evaluation

Test 1:	5%
Test 2:	10%
Assignment:	20%
Forum responses:	30%
Final exam:	35%

The tests and the final exam will have to be submitted within a specified time-slot. For the tests you will have **four hours** to submit, and for the exam (modelled on the older 3-hour examination) you will have **ten hours**. Topics for the assignments will be put up after the course begins. **All submissions (assignments, forum comments, tests, final examinations) will be online** (on OWL or to my e-mail address, as specified).

Note on teaching methods. Since this is (for most of us) our first venture into the terrain of online pedagogy, we will do a certain amount of learning as we go. I estimate we will need three weeks for each of the primary texts, and a week each for the essays, which are relatively short. We will have a few Zoom lectures/conferences, but attendance for these is not mandatory, and no marks will be assigned either for attendance or participation (dates and times for these will be fixed after the course begins). **Lectures will be posted in Voicethread.** Key points from the lectures will be emphasized in the Powerpoints that accompany the Voicethread lectures. The lectures will be asynchronous (you can access them at any time that works for you). You may comment on the lectures, and/or seek clarifications **in the forums, on the messages site on OWL**, or (if you'd rather talk to me one-on-one, **by email**). **Your comments in the forum threads carry a grade of 30%, so please remember to participate as vigorously and extensively as possible.**

Forum Responses: You must comment on **at least six of the texts** in the course in your forum-comments (you can comment on all 8, and I will use the best 6). You must comment **in the thread** that will be made for each text. You can comment on the text, on another student's comment, or on a secondary critical reading. You must write at least two separate comments to get a grade for that text. You can write more comments, of course; in fact, I would advise you to write more comments, since that will both stimulate discussion and make it easier for me to grade your output. It makes sense to save your responses for the second or third week of the period in which each text is discussed, since this will give you the opportunity to absorb the text, listen to the lectures, and read the secondary criticism.

E-mail queries: I will be checking for your messages in the forums or at my e-mail every day, so you can expect fairly quick responses to your queries. I really don't mind how often you might wish to check on something with me, so feel free to ask questions and seek clarifications.

Office hours will be held every week, and will, of course, be synchronous. Office hours will be held on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Collaborate (OWL). If those hours don't work for you, e-mail me and we'll fix up another time.

Please check the announcement section on OWL for updates. Since the course is largely online and we won't have much of an opportunity for face-to-face interactions, a lot of the interactions will take place on the forums. **All submissions (assignments, forum comments, tests, final examinations) will be online** (on OWL or to my e-mail address, as specified).

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, 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.

Timetable

Weeks 1 and 2	Introduction; <i>Kiss of the Fur Queen</i>
Week 3	<i>KFQ</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 4 and 5	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> Test (4 hours, date to be announced)
Weeks 6 and 7	<i>TFA</i> , themes and criticism
Week 8	<i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>
Week 9	<i>DKH</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 10 and 11	<i>Cracking India</i>
Week 12	<i>CI</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 13 and 14	<i>Miguel Street</i>
Week 15	<i>MS</i> , themes and criticism
Week 16	<i>A Small Place</i>
Week 17	<i>SP</i> , themes and criticism Test (4 hours, date to be announced)
Weeks 18 and 19	<i>Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence</i> Assignment due (date to be announced)
Weeks 20 and 21	<i>Americanah</i>
Weeks 22 and 23	<i>Americanah</i>
Week 24	Review