

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Global Literatures in English Survey**

**English 2601E (001)**

Fall/Winter 2021-22

**Instructor:** Nigel Joseph

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Course Location:** PAB-34

**Course Day/Time:** Wednesday 6:30-9:30 pm

**Antirequisites:** [English 2361E](#), [2362F/G](#), [2363F/G](#) and [English 3884E](#), or the former English 2310E.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [1022E](#) or [1024E](#) or [1035E](#) or [1036E](#) or [1042E](#) 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 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

This course encourages students to explore literary traditions outside that of canonical English literature. We look at novels, plays and poetry from different literary traditions and innovations, and from such diverse geographic regions as Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Through close reading of literary texts written in English, students will explore how cultures produce different--often competing--ways of making meaning. 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 cheap/second-hand editions or share editions, or to 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:	20%
Final exam:	40%
Attendance and participation:	5%

**Tests** will be held in-class, and will be completed within two hours or less.

**The final examination** will cover all the texts of the course, but will be weighted so that the texts in the second half of the course will feature more often.

**Online forums:** Since last year's online course demonstrated that students benefit from the online forums (they allow students who are not very comfortable with speaking up in class to participate; also, they allow for more considered and carefully constructed comments and responses). Typically, a forum for the discussion of a particular text will open after the lecture. Any student can comment on any aspect of the text/lecture. Other students can either respond to these comments, or start their own comment threads. Since the forum grade is 20%, students can comment on any four of the eight texts of the course (you can comment on all 8, and I will use the best 4). 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.

**The assignment** will be a 2500 word research assignment with at least three secondary sources. Both topics and treatment can be discussed with me in advance, and I am willing to look at early drafts and proposals (but only if sent to me more than a week before submission).

**Attendance and participation:** Participation in classroom discussion is encouraged. The UWO calendar states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class... in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning is given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course...". Class attendance is important: 5% of the overall grade is set aside for this component. In addition, overheads and/or PowerPoints will be used during lectures, and not all the material used will appear on OWL; so only those who attend all (or a majority of) the classes will have access to this material.

**Late assignments:** A penalty of one mark per day (including weekends) will be imposed for late essays beginning the first day after the deadline. No essays will be accepted after the tenth day. Essays submitted after that day will be accepted only on (a) humanitarian grounds, or (b) medical grounds, for which written proof must be provided to the Office of the Academic Dean. No essay will be accepted after the last day of classes unless (a) or (b) above apply, or the student has received prior permission from the instructor. **Late essays not handed in at class may be dropped off in the mailbox outside the English department office.** All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Essays should have the professor's name clearly inscribed.

**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.

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without

permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

For the **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### **Religious Accommodation:**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

### 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](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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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; <b><i>Kiss of the Fur Queen</i></b>
Week 3	<i>KFQ</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 4 and 5	<b><i>Things Fall Apart</i></b>
Weeks 6 and 7	<i>TFA</i> , themes and criticism
Week 8	<b><i>Death and the King's Horseman</i></b>
Week 9	<i>DKH</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 10 and 11	<b><i>Cracking India</i></b>
Week 12	<i>CI</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 13 and 14	<b><i>Miguel Street</i></b>
Week 15	<i>MS</i> , themes and criticism
Week 16	<b><i>A Small Place</i></b>
Week 17	<i>SP</i> , themes and criticism
Weeks 18 and 19	<b><i>Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence</i> Assignment due March 4</b>
Weeks 20 and 21	<b><i>Americanah</i></b>
Weeks 22 and 23	<i>Americanah</i>
Week 24	Review