

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 4670F (001)**Seminar in Global Literature in English:
Global Literature in English: Texts, Contexts, and Contests**
Fall 2026**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Nandi Bhatia

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Office hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This course examines literatures in English from South Asia, Africa and the Caribbean that speak to the historical and contemporary linkages between global colonial expansion and literary production. It will address themes and literary traditions that expose students to theoretical and literary debates regarding the politics of language and storytelling, borders, mobility, gender, race, class, and diasporic experiences.

Course Materials**Texts**

- M.G. Vassanji, *The Book of Secrets*
- Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Conditions*
- Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*
- Peggy Mohan, *Jahajin*
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Readings available on Brightspace under “Course Readings”

Note: You can use any edition of these texts. In addition to the university bookstore, you are encouraged to check [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca), used bookstores or libraries for availability.

Approximate cost of books: \$100 (Most readings are available on Brightspace through “Course Readings” or in print at the library)

Methods of Evaluation

- 1) **Class Participation and Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes and participate positively and actively during the discussion period. This will also include coming prepared to class. Inconsistent attendance (including frequent absences and late arrivals) may negatively impact your level of participation and affect your final participation grade. (20%)
- 2) **Seminar Presentations:** Each student will pick up on aspects of the reading and make an oral presentation in a class. Based on the presentation, a written essay (Approximately 1500 words) will be submitted one week later (15% presentation+ 15% essay=30%)

- 3) **Research Essay.** This essay should be approximately 3000 words on a topic that emerges out of the course readings. The essay should attend to the historical and theoretical contexts of the texts and should include at least 6-8 secondary sources. Both topics and treatment can be discussed with me in advance. Essays handed in late will be returned with a grade but no comments. Essays handed in late without prior permission will receive a lower mark. Extensions must be arranged in advance of due date. Essays may be e-mailed. The Research essay should follow the format described in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. (50%). Submission date TBA

Expectations for Evaluations and Grades

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	Below 50	Fail.

Week 1 Sep. 1	Introduction
Week 2 Sep. 17	Guest lecture on library resources Stephen Slemon, “Post-Colonial Critical Theories” Anne McClintock, “The Angels of Progress: Pitfalls of the term ‘Post-colonialism’”
Week 3 Sep. 24	Achebe, “English and the African Writer” Ngugi wa Thiong’o, “Decolonising the Mind” Gupta, R.K. “English in a Postcolonial Situation: The Example of India”
Week 4 October 1	<i>African Literature, Guest Lecture</i>
Week 5 Oct. 8	Work at home on research essay – write your abstracts/outline and bring them to the next class. Please include a bibliography
Week 6 Oct. 15	READING WEEK
Week 7 Oct. 22	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Week 8 Oct. 29	Tsitsi Dengarembka, <i>Nervous Conditions</i>
Week 9 Nov. 5	Saadat Hasan Manto, “Toba Tek Singh” <i>Stories my Country Told Me</i> with Eqbal Ahmad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kLGE1ayJ7M Singh, Jeet. “Ecocritical Analysis of Manto’s ‘Toba Tek Singh:’ Re-Imagining Aesthetics of Place and Person.”
Week 10 Nov. 12	Bapsi Sidhwa, <i>Cracking India</i> Urvashi Butalia “Community, State and Gender: On Women’s Agency During Partition.
Week 11 Nov. 19	M.G. Vassanji, <i>The Book of Secrets</i>
Week 12 Nov. 26	Peggy Mohan, <i>Jahajin</i>
Week 13 Dec 3	M. NourbeSe Philip, “Discourse on the Logic of Language” https://www.are.na/block/1941474 Roache, “Rethinking the discourse of ‘marginality’ in English literary studies and the social sciences: M. NourbeSe Philip’s ‘Discourse on the Logic of Language’”

Technical Requirements

Electronic Devices: *For in-class written assignments electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.*

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Information about absences, late or missed evaluations and academic consideration:

Only medical, religious holidays and extenuating circumstances considerations will be considered for absences, late or missed evaluations. All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request without supporting documentation in this course.

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration* posted on the Academic

Calendar: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>. This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration

submitted for attempted or completed work, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#). For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's

webpage: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html. All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline. It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

Professionalism & Privacy: Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow in person and online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared.
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission.
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed.

Western Academic Policies and Statements

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, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) .

Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation%20and%20Disabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessible

Education at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

<http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

Support Services

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.