English 463 “Postcolonial Literatures”  
Winter 2005  
Tues/Thurs 1:00 – 2:20 p.m, Hagey Hall 280

Professor Heather Smyth  
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:45 am – 12:45 pm, or by appointment

Aims of the Course:

This course introduces students to postcolonial literatures through a comparative study of selected African, Australian, and Sri Lankan literatures. Some of the potential topics to be discussed include the range of creative forms and language use in the texts and issues such as indigeneity, migration and settlement; the intersections of gender, sexuality and race; the role of history in narratives of individual and collective identities; and the construction of cultural nationalisms and concept of ‘the authentic.’

Texts (required):

Peter Carey True History of the Kelly Gang  
Mudrooroo Master of the Ghost Dreaming (courseware reader available in bookstore)  
Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara Rabbit Proof Fence  
J.M. Coetzee Waiting for the Barbarians  
Tsitsi Dangarembga Nervous Conditions  
Ama Ata Aidoo The Dilemma of a Ghost (in the course readings)  
Shyam Selvadurai Cinnamon Gardens  
English 463 Course Readings (CR) (available in bookstore)

Assignments:

20%: Short Essay (6-8 pages, 1500-2000 words; due Feb 17)  
40%: Long Essay (10-12 pages, 2500-3000 words; due March 31)  
40%: Final exam

Students are expected to attend class, to do the readings thoughtfully and ahead of time, and to participate fully in the class discussions. Much of the content of this course is generated through class discussion and debate.

Essays will follow standard MLA format. They will be typed/wordprocessed, double-spaced, use 10-12 point font and one-inch margins, and have a title and title page, “Works Cited” page, and numbered pages. Some essay topic suggestions will follow on separate handouts. If you pick your own topic it should be relevant to the course and you should discuss your topic with me before writing. Essays will be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due, and late penalties (3% per day including weekends) start being calculated at the end of that class. Medical reasons for lateness require a detailed and satisfactory medical note, and problems must be communicated to the professor as soon as possible. No essays will be accepted after the date of the final exam.

Final Exam (TBA): The final exam will take place in the exam period. It will consist of essay questions and will cover the entire course, including assigned readings, handouts, lectures,
and class discussions. The final exam is part of this course and you are expected to book your holiday or travel plans with the date of the exam in mind. Please consult the Undergraduate Calendar for information on rescheduling exams for medical reasons.

**Note from the Faculty of Arts on avoidance of academic offences:** All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Plagiarism is a highly serious offence with serious penalties. **It is your responsibility to learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid committing it inadvertently (it is an academic offence even if not deliberate).** You must avoid plagiarism in any oral or written assignments. Read "**How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors**" at:

http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html

**Schedule of Readings (subject to change):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>History and critical frameworks for postcolonialism</td>
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| Jan 13 | Carey, *True History of the Kelly Gang*  
*This one class will be held in PAS room 1229*  |
| Jan 18 | Carey                                      |
| Jan 20 | Carey; **January 24 is the end of drop-no penalty period** |
| Jan 25 | Mudrooro, *Master of the Ghost Dreaming*;  
Adam Shoemaker, “Mudrooro and the Curse of Authenticity” (CR) |
Jan 27  Mudrooroo;  
Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man: the Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse” (CR)
Feb 1  Mudrooroo
Feb 3  Pilkington, Rabbit-Proof Fence
Feb 8  Pilkington
Feb 10  Pilkington; film
Feb 15  Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians
Feb 17  Coetzee; Essay #1 due
Feb 21-25  Reading Week
March 1  Coetzee
March 3  Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions;  
John McLeod, “Postcolonialism and Feminism”
March 8  Dangarembga;  
Frantz Fanon, selections from The Wretched of the Earth (CR)
March 10  Dangarembga
March 15  Aidoo, The Dilemma of a Ghost (CR)
March 17  Aidoo
March 22  Selvadurai, Cinnamon Gardens
March 24  Selvadurai
March 29  Selvadurai
March 31  Overflow; Essay #2 due
April 5  Catch-up and review

Suggested Resources:
Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin, The Empire Writes Back (on reserve at Porter library)
---. The Post-Colonial Studies Reader
---. Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies (on reserve at Porter library)
Loomba, Ania. Colonialism/Postcolonialism (on reserve at Porter library)
McLeod, John. Beginning Postcolonialism (on reserve at Porter library)
Thieme, John. Post-Colonial Studies: The Essential Glossary