English 463 “Postcolonial Literatures”
Winter 2007
Tues/Thurs 11:30 am – 12:50 pm
MC 2035

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10-11 am, 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 (in Course Readings)
Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara Rabbit Proof Fence
J. M. Coetzee Waiting for the Barbarians
Tsitsi Dangarembga Nervous Conditions
Shyam Selvadurai Cinnamon Gardens
English 463 Course Readings (CR) (available in bookstore)

Assignments:

10%: In-class Presentation (5 minutes)
20%: Short Essay (6-8 pages, 1500-2000 words; due Feb 27)
35%: Long Essay (10-12 pages, 2500-3000 words; due March 29)
35%: 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.

In-class Presentation: Each student will prepare and deliver a five-minute presentation to the rest of the class on a specified topic and day. The signup sheet will be made available on the 2nd day of classes. Please time yourself beforehand and keep strictly to the five-minute time limit (I will stop you if you go over). Be attentive to your audience: be conversational as much as possible, rather than reading from a script; focus on analysis and interesting features more than simply listing dates or facts; and draw connections between your presentation material and the text under discussion. For author presentations, aim to provide a sense of the author’s overall style, subject matter, and philosophical preoccupations across his/her works. For presentations on reviews of novels, look for trends, debates, and summaries of analyses. For historical presentations, try to shape the presentation by connecting important events with issues relevant to postcolonial studies and the subject matter of the text under discussion. If there will be several presentations on historical background for a novel (for example,
Pilkington), try to avoid too much repetition: consult with your fellow presenters if necessary. Please hand in to me a one-page summary of your presentation afterwards (it can be the point-form notes you use to present, if you wish). Your grade will reflect both the content (relevance of material, connections to text and course, quality of analysis) and oral presentation (audibility, speed, attentiveness to listeners) of your material. If you are sick and unable to present on your assigned day please provide a medical note and sign up for a different presentation.

**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 "Works Cited," 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, in-class presentations, 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/infocal/UW/policy_71.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocal/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](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/infospec/Policies/policy70.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infospec/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 9</td>
<td>History and critical frameworks for postcolonialism</td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Carey, <em>True History of the Kelly Gang</em>; presentations begin</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Carey</td>
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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Carey; January 23 is the end of drop-no penalty period</td>
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<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Mudroorooy, <em>Master of the Ghost Dreaming</em></td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Mudroorooy; Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man: the Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse” (CR)</td>
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<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Mudroorooy; Adam Shoemaker, “Mudroorooy and the Curse of Authenticity” (CR)</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Pilkington, <em>Rabbit-Proof Fence</em></td>
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<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Pilkington</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Pilkington</td>
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<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Screening of <em>Rabbit Proof Fence</em> film</td>
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<td>Feb 19-23</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Coetzee, <em>Waiting for the Barbarians</em>; Essay #1 due</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Coetzee</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Coetzee</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Dangarembga, <em>Nervous Conditions</em></td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Dangarembga; John McLeod, “Postcolonialism and Feminism”</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Dangarembga; Frantz Fanon, selections from <em>The Wretched of the Earth</em> (CR)</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Selvadurai, <em>Cinnamon Gardens</em></td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Selvadurai</td>
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March 27 | Selvadurai
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March 29 | Overflow; Essay #2 due
Apr 3 | 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*

**Good postcolonial literary journals:**

*ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*
*Australian Literary Studies*
*Commonwealth*
*Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*
*Journal of Commonwealth Literature*
*Jouvert* (online journal)
*Kunapipi*
*Postcolonial Text* (online journal)
*Research in African Literatures*
*World Literature Written in English (WLWE)* (now called *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*)

**Useful websites:**

Contemporary Postcolonial and Postimperial Literature in English

Deepika Bahri's Postcolonial Studies site at Emory University
http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/

Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Note: you should always be mindful of the quality and reputableness of your research sources. Be especially cautious with online research material; check your facts and analyses against a second source.