**Topics in Transnational / Postcolonial Literature**

**Description:** This course considers the formation of the writer’s voice in what Homi Bhabha calls a “Third Space of Enunciation,” the interdependence of the colonized and the colonizer. Special focus will remain on hybridity in the genres of fiction, poetry, drama, and memoir. Through a close reading of texts from various regions in the world, we will locate biography, history, culture, literary tradition, and even language itself in a paradoxical dislocation, wherein the hyphen dividing an identity between two seemingly disparate worlds ultimately creates an authentically new voice.

**Texts:**

- *An Anthology of Colonial and Postcolonial Short Fiction*, Eds. Baldwin& Quinn
- *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe
- *Waiting for the Barbarians*, J.M. Coetzee
- *Brother, I’m Dying*, Edwidge Danticat
- *Harvest*, Manjula Padmanabhan
- *Death and the King’s Horseman: A Play*, Wole Soyinka

**Goals:**

*Understand key post-colonial terms and apply them in a literary analysis*
*Use biographical information to analyze author as political mediator of text*
*Compare and contrast both style and theme of two post-colonial texts*
*Read 3 genres of course texts in historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts*
*Improve ability to write analytical academic essays with correct grammar*

This course can be used to fulfill the College Option Literature Requirement.

**Requirements:**

**Participation**— In class-discussion, group projects, and quizzes on readings count towards the participation grade

**Presentation**—Oral presentation of an author covered in class

**Short Papers**—Frequent one page analytical response papers focusing on the assigned readings

**Midterm**— In class exam (mainly essay format) on application of post-colonial/transnational concepts and terms in a literary analysis
Final Paper—5-7 page essay offering a comparative analysis of two literary works

Grades:
- Participation—15%
- Presentation—15%
- Short Papers—20%
- Midterm—25%
- Final Paper—25%

Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Formal Assignments

Week One

Mon. 8/31 Course Introduction, Reading of Kincaid’s “Girl” & Marley’s “Crazy Baldhead”

Wed. 9/2 Jamake Highwater’s “The Intellectual Savage” (Class Handout)

Week Two

Mon. 9/7 No Classes

Wed. 9/9 Introductory Material and Conrad’s “Heart of Darkness,” pp.2-30 & pp103-165 in An Anthology of Colonial and Postcolonial Short Fiction

Week Three


Week Four


Week Five
Mon. 9/28  
No Classes

Tues. 9/29  
Classes Follow Monday Schedule  Poetry (handed out in class)

Wed. 9/30  
Poetry (handed out in class)

Week Six

Mon. 10/5  
Padmanabhan’s *Harvest*

Wed. 10/7  
Padmanabhan’s *Harvest*

Week Seven

Mon. 10/12  
No Classes

Wed. 10/14  
Classes Follow Monday Schedule  Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman*

Week Eight

Mon. 10/19  
Soyinka’s *Death and the King’s Horseman*

Wed. 10/21  
Midterm

Week Nine

Mon. 10/26  
Danticat’s *Brother, I’m Dying* (Part One)

Wed. 10/28  
Danticat’s *Brother, I’m Dying* (Part Two: First Three Chapters)

Week Ten

Mon. 11/2  
Danticat’s *Brother, I’m Dying* (Part Two: Next Seven Chapters)

Wed. 11/4  
Danticat’s *Brother, I’m Dying* (Finish Book)

Week Eleven

Mon. 11/9  
Coetzee’s *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapters 1&2)
Wed. 11/11    Coetzee’s *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapter 3)

**Week Twelve**

Mon. 11/16    Coetzee’s *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapter 4)
Wed. 11/18    Coetzee’s *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Chapters 5&6)

**Week Thirteen**

Mon. 11/23    Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 1-7)
Wed. 11/25    Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 8-10)

**Week Fourteen**

Mon. 11/30    Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 11-19)
Wed. 12/2     Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 20-25)

**Week Fifteen**

Mon. 12/7     Workshop Final Papers
Wed. 12/9     **Last Day of Class** Workshop Final Papers
Wed. 12/16    **Final Paper Due**