



A M B R O S E

EN 410 Postcolonial Literature (3)

Fall 2013

Dr. Tim Heath

Office: L2065

Class Times: 2:30 – 3:45 W/F

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Office Phone: 403-410-2000 ext. 5904

Class Location: L2082

Office Hours: Th 9:45 to 11:00 or by
appointment

Description

Postcolonial literature written in English (fiction, poetry, and drama) from Africa, Australia, Britain, Canada, India, New Zealand, and the United States is the focus of this course. Topics will include the forms and language use in texts; indigeneity and migration; intersections of gender and race; and resistance, nationalism, multiculturalism and history.

Objectives

To study postcolonial fiction, theory, and criticism with special emphasis on mastering the core issues and key concepts in the postcolonial criticism and theory.

Texts

Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Achebe, Chinua	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> (1959)	Anchor (1994)	9780385667838
Coetzee, J.M.	<i>Foe</i> (1986)	Penguin (1988)	9788420424965
Conrad, Joseph	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> (1902)	Norton	9780393926361
Head, Bessie	<i>A Question of Power</i> (1974)	Longman	9780435907204
Rhys, Jean	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> (1966)	Norton Critical Edition (1998)	9780393960129
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Midnight's Children</i> (1981)	Random House (2006)	9780812976533

Course Requirements

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion. Participation means not mere attendance but your

thoughtful—appreciative and critical—engagement with texts and the ideas of others. I assign participation grades on how you contribute to the life of the mind in our class.

2. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified. I do not grant extensions without prior permission or a letter from the Registrar or Dean of Arts and Science. Late papers drop one third of a grade per day. For example, if an A- paper is due at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday but is submitted at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday it will receive a B+. By Friday the same paper will earn a B. I will not accept papers more than two class periods late.
3. Students are required to keep an extra copy of each assignment (digital, hard copy, or both). Students are advised to keep back-up versions of essays while composing and completing them. Translation: technical problems should not be cited as an excuse for late, missing, or garbled work.
4. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be submitted to the instructor.
5. Missed exams will only be made up if supported by the appropriate documentation (for example, a doctor's note).
6. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated. All instances of plagiarism will be forwarded to the Academic Dean.
7. Students may not submit work done for another class.
8. The student is responsible for all the information given in class, and also for any changes to the syllabus announced in class.
9. Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. More than three (3) unexcused class absences will reduce participation grades by two percentage points. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a fellow student, to acquire any handouts, and to discover whether any changes were made to the syllabus.
10. Essay assignment sheets for each paper will provide format details, length requirements, due date, course weight, topics, and other relevant details.
11. Essays must be submitted as a hard copy to the instructor at 2:30 on the date due, and an electronic copy must be submitted to the Moodle site for EN 410-1 by 2:30 p.m. on the same date. **Electronic files must be standard formats such as MS Word or PDF.**
12. Papers must be printed single-sided, in a conventional twelve-point font such as Times New Roman or Garamond and double-spaced, with one-inch margins all sides. In the upper left corner list your name, my name, the course number, and date, all on separate

lines. At the centre of the next line, please provide a title designed to prepare your reader for your argument. I will not read papers whose pages are not numbered and stapled. The same goes for papers that do not follow the format and documentation guidelines of the Modern Languages Association (MLA).

13. I find e-mail an inadequate way to discuss paper topics and theses, so I ask that you meet with me, either during office hours or by appointment, to talk about papers. Please come in before your paper is due. I will gladly meet with you up until two days before the paper is due, so please plan your writing with this timeline in mind.
14. All term papers for this course may be subjected to an originality analysis by Turnitin. For more information, see <http://turnitin.com>.

Grading

Critiques	10% (two at 5% each)
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	25%
Midterm exam	15%
Participation	10%
Seminar	<u>20% (15%)*</u>
	100%

* To receive the full course weight for the seminar, all students must participate in a group critique of one another's seminars, one briefly convened at the beginning of each class following a seminar session. In addition to this verbal session, student will submit a one page written critique of the seminar via Moodle. Please submit this page with no identifying marks, so it can remain anonymous. I will print and distribute these critiques to each seminar presenter. Students who choose not to participate in these sessions forfeit five percent of their seminar's course weight. A rubric to guide seminar preparation, delivery, evaluation, and critique will be circulated in class.

Final grades for the course appear as letter grades. The table below shows the percentage equivalents for each letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	96-100
A	91-95
A-	86-90
B+	82-85
B	75-81

B-	72-74
C+	68-71
C	63-67
C-	60-62
D+	59-59
D	50-55
F	0-49

Important Notes

- Last day to add or drop with tuition refund: **15 September 2013**
- Last day to change to audit: **15 September 2013**
- Last day to request revised time for a final exam: **28 October**
- Last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty: **12 November 2013**
- Last day to apply for coursework extension: **25 November 2013**

Electronic Etiquette

Laptops may be used for note taking, but I reserve the right to ban all electronics from the classroom if they become a distraction. All other electronics—phones, tablets, cameras, that is, all recording and distracting devices—must be switched off during class. On the whole, I prefer that students take handwritten notes.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by Monday, November 25, 2013 (Fall semester) or Monday, March 31, 2014 (Winter semester). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Schedule

September	
4 Introduction	6 Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
11 Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	13 Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
18 Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Seminar Presentation	20 Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
25 Spiritual Emphasis Days, no class	27 Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
October	
2 Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	4 Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> Seminar Presentation
9 Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ESSAY 1 DUE	11 Midterm Exam
16 Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	18 Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> Seminar Presentation
23 Head, <i>Question of Power</i>	25 Head, <i>Question of Power</i>
30 Head, <i>Question of Power</i>	
November	
	1 Head, <i>Question of Power</i> Seminar Presentation
6 Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>	8 Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>
13 Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>	15 Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i> Seminar Presentation
20 TBA	22 Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> ESSAY 2 DUE
27 Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>	29 Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> Seminar Presentation
December	
4 Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>	6 Last class, review