

Course Description

This course will examine the **politics and aesthetics** of postcolonial literature in the Twentieth Century. The use of the phrase “postcolonial subjects” in this course refers to people of former colonies which established independence in the modern era. Part of our discussions will examine whether former colonial subjects, given linguistic, national, racial, and cultural differences, to name a few, share fundamental experiences. Assigned readings in this course are drawn from writers of African, Caribbean, East Asian, and South Asian heritages.

Our discussions will also focus on **issues of national identity and sub-alterity**, psychology of **colonization** and **colonial education**, problems of **historical amnesia**, the concept of **diaspora**, and uses of **language** and **narrative strategy in literature** as resistance to **cultural hegemony**, as well as the **transformative work of Christianity** among postcolonial people in a global context, examining cross-cultural missions in postcolonial nations as represented in literature.

We will be reading a **variety of genres**, including poetry, novels, short fiction, essays, and works that blur genre boundaries. Our diverse postcolonial writers and their subjects are informed by many different races, ethnicities, and nationalities. We will also read a generous amount of literary criticism on the selected authors. The course **integrates faith and learning** by increasing student knowledge and understanding of the **historical perspectives** and **literary heritages** through the **lenses of Christian insight**.

Required Books

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid

Butterfly's Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the U.S. ed. by Edwidge Danticat

Colonial Discourse / Postcolonial Theory by Patrick Williams & Laura Chrisman

Gangster We're All Looking For by lê thi diem thúy

Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai

Maru by Bessie Head

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Requirements

Two Midterms (25% each) & One 10-page paper (50%)

Four absences will result in a failing grade.

An excess of tardies and/or early departures have an adverse effect on your semester grade.

Late assignments are deducted 1/3 letter grade per day late.



**Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause
like the noonday sun. (NIV, Psalm 37.5-6) †**



Week One INTRODUCTION & Postcolonial Visual Arts

Week Two LEGACY OF COLONIAL EDUCATION

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid & “On National Culture” by Frantz Fanon

Week Three DIASPORA Essays from *Butterfly’s Way* edited by Edwidge Danticat

“Diaspora” by Joanne Hyppolite (7) & “Bonne Année” by Jean-Pierre Benoit (31)

“Cage of Words” by Joel Dreyfuss (57) & “Home Is . . .” by Sophia Cantave (164)

“Speaking in Tongues: Dialogics, Dialectics . . .” by Mae Henderson

Week Four ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

“My Suitcases” by Maude Heurtelou (89) & “Lazarus Rising” by Myriam Chancy (223)

“Cultural Identity and Diaspora” by Stuart Hall

Week Five PATRIARCHS & NATIONS

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, **Chapters 1 – 12**

Week Six OLD ORDER & NEW ORDER

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, **Chapters 12 –25**

“Language of African Literature” by Ngugi wa Thiong’o

Week Seven

FIRST IN-CLASS MIDTERM (BRING BLUE BOOKS)

Week Eight LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Maru by Bessie Head & Speeches of Nelson Mandela (readings & video)

Week Nine HYBRID IDENTITIES

Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai (**I & II**)

Week Ten: LOCATIONS OF CULTURE

Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai (**III & IV**) & “From Orientalism” by Edward Said

Week Eleven INDEPENDENCE & ALTERITY

Gandhi produced by Richard Attenborough

Week Twelve EXILE, IMMIGRATION, HYPHENATED SPACES

The Gangster We’re All Looking For by lê thi diem thúy

Week Thirteen

SECOND IN-CLASS MIDTERM (BRING BLUE BOOKS)

Week Fourteen POSTCOLONIALISM & CHRISTIANITY

The Mission directed by Roland Joffe

Week Fifteen: 10-page Paper Due

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (NIV, James 1.17)