



English 781.01E || Major Figures in World Literature
Postcolonial Writers and World Literature
Spring 2023

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Department: Literature and Languages

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Thursdays 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, or by appointment

Phone: 903.468.3260

Preferred Form of Communication: office hours and email

Communication Response Time: within the day

Course Information:

Meeting Time: 5:30 pm – 8:10 pm, Thursday

Meeting Place: Talbot Hall, Room 208

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
<https://www.tamuc.edu/>

Course Description

This course is a study of classical and contemporary literature in translation and in diverse genres. This course is required for doctoral students specializing in Critical Literacy (the study of literature and film).

The study of World Literature poses intellectual challenges. First, what is literature, and second, whose world? These are two central questions we will return to throughout the semester and in our weekly discussions. We will examine the primary and theoretical texts through an intertextual lens to see the cross-spacial and cross-temporal conversations that the world of letters has historically engaged in. We will think of **literatures** rather than **literature**, and **worlds** rather than **world**. Moreover, this course will focus on the idea of ‘story’ – the story of the characters on the pages; how that story speaks to specific cultural contexts, and how those contexts travel through translation into other cultures. We will center our analysis on the story of the world that literatures in translation narrate, thereby thinking of the texts

included here not as major or minor, but rather as a constellation of narratives, which give us a glimpse into the worlds that the texts represent, the ways these worlds are transformative and metamorphic in the hands of translators and publishers, and in the hands of the individual reader seeking to construct meaning.

More specifically, we will examine postcolonial literature as World Literature and focus on texts from the non-Western world. In our discussions we will examine questions about nationalism, anti-colonial resistance, postcoloniality, diasporic identity, etc.; we will examine the intertextual nature of postcolonial literature and the dialogue that it engages in with national and global contexts.

Driving Questions:

- What is literature and whose literature?
- What is world and whose world?
- What is a world text?
- How has literature been understood across time and space in its many manifestations?
- Can we speak for others? What does it mean to be spoken for?
- How are translation and representation related?
- What is the relationship between representation and agency?
- In what ways does subjectivity affect representational practices of translation, publication, and circulation?

Primary Texts We Will Read

(Subject to change)

- Gurnah, Abdulrazak. *Gravel Heart*
- Farah, Nurudin. *Maps*
- Salih, Tayeb. *Season of Migration to the North*
- Césaire, Aimé. *A Tempest*
- Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King's Horseman*
- Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children*
- Hamid, Mohsin. *Exit West*
- Short story selections (PDFs will be provided)

Theoretical Texts We Will Read

(Subject to change)

- Selections - Derrida, Jacques. *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression*, 1995
- Selections from David Damrosch's *What Is World Literature?*, 2003
- Spivak, Gayatri. "Rethinking Comparativism", 2009
- Selections from Emily Apter's *Against World Literature*, 2013
- Vilashini Coopan selections
- Moretti, Franco. "Conjectures on World Literature", 2000
- Spivak, Gayatri and David Damrosch. "Comparative Literature/World Literature: A Discussion with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and David Damrosch", 2011
- D'haen, Theo. "Major Histories, Minor Literatures, World Authors", 2013
- Sapiro, Gisèle. "The Metamorphosis of Modes of Consecration in the Literary Field: Academies, Literary Prizes, Festivals", 2016
- Selections from Aamir R. Mufti's *Forget English!*, 2016
- Selections from Rebecca Walkowitz's *Born Translated: The Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature*, 2015

- Selections from Pheng Cheah's *What is a World? On Postcolonial Literature as World Literature*, 2016.

Course Objectives

- Identify and evaluate major dialogues about World Literature
- Analyze and discuss the contributions of postcolonial writers to World Literature
- Write about the ways that European colonialism and neo-imperialism has affected the postcolonial world and its literary production
- Understand and apply critical and postcolonial theory to literary texts
- Present high-quality work about the course material in written and multi-media format

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale, and you can look up your grades anytime on the virtual course space:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Weekly Responses	20%
Essay Proposal	5%
Presentation	20%
Annotated Bibliography	25%
Major Essay	30%
TOTAL	100%

Assignments and Exams

- Weekly Reading Responses – These will be brief responses to the week's reading prompts on the online portal's discussion boards. You will need to post these responses every Wednesday evening.
- Essay Proposal: This proposal will be a two-page summary of your topic for your podcast episode and major essay, the reasons for this choice, and the preliminary findings/research. I will provide more details later in the semester.
- Major Essay – This paper will have seven components: 1. Meet with professor to select paper topic; 2. Abstract; 3. Extended Abstract/Proposal (2 pages); 4. Annotated Bibliography; 5. Seminar length paper (12-15 pages); 6. Presentation of an abbreviated version of the seminar paper (this component will be a separate grade); 7. Submit abstract to either a journal or a conference.
- Presentation: Each student will present on their essay topic; details forthcoming.

Crucial Course Objective:

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course,

that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics. I encourage your suggestions about how to improve the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in this course. This course meets the following standards for diversity content and instruction in the following way(s):

1. Course content that includes readings and other materials that address various categories of social difference (gender, nationality, religion, ethnicity, race, age, sexuality, political affiliation, socio-economic status, ability, linguistic background, etc.) on the course topic.
2. Tying current events and local histories centered on the production of social difference into classroom activities.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will be holding regular office hours (see the header on this syllabus) and I encourage you to come see me often. Consider these office visits as a way for you not only to ask questions, but to also develop your ideas for your assignments, and to engage with the material outside of class. If the office hours I have are not ideal for your schedule, I am also able to make individual appointments.

If you send an email I will answer it that same day if the email was sent between 8 am-4 pm on weekdays. If your email was sent after those specified times, I will reply the next morning or after the weekend. Please follow proper email etiquette. I do not check brightspace email, so only send emails to the university address: LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu

Things to Keep in Mind

1. All Writing Projects **must be** turned in on LMS (see next section for access) on the due date and time. No make-up work is allowed on major assignments. **Late work** will be penalized 10% of the grade per day that it is late.
2. All work needs to adhere to **MLA format** with appropriate documentation
3. **Plagiarism**, or turning in work that is not one's own, runs counter to the most basic purposes and presumptions of higher education. The minimum penalty for plagiarism will be failure of the assignment. In repeated cases, the penalty is failure of the course and filing paperwork with the department head (see section below on academic integrity).
4. All students will be graded on their ability to: 1. Achieve the goal of the specific assignment 2. Efficiently and effectively communicate through writing 3. Properly format the work and 4. Avoid stigmatized grammatical and syntactical errors. Each assignment will vary, but these four factors will always determine part, or all, of your grade.

Technology Requirements

LMS: All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me via email: LameborshiEralda@tamuc.edu

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance and an updated copy will be posted online.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel