

**Carleton University
Fall 2015
Department of English**

ENGL 1009A: Literature in Global Context

*Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000, ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300, ENGL 1400, and
FYSM 1004*

Time: Monday 8:35 am – 11:25 am

Location: Tory Building 236

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty

Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca

Office: Dunton Tower 1915

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 2317

Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Course Description:

This course studies representative literature from around the world with an emphasis on authors from outside the Anglo-European canon, viz. Africa, Asia, Middle East, and the Caribbean.

Built around an over-arching theme of cultural encounters, this course provides a literary glimpse into diverse cultural landscapes and analyzes the socio-cultural/political contexts of literary texts with a view to reassess traditional notions and critique stereotypes. With a comparative approach, the course will explore the tropes of cultural variance as reflected in the notions of race, gender, religion, love and sexuality as well as political and historical events and movements that shaped the modern world including colonialism, nationalism, and the realities of the postcolonial global existence. We shall study an interesting and varied literary corpus including novels, short stories, graphic novel, selected poetry and non-fiction.

Course Objectives:

- Introducing students to major literary trends and tropes in world literature, especially non-Western. The course is an exciting opportunity to broaden the literary horizon of the students and it aims to generate their interest in further exploring other areas within the field of global studies.

- Relating the literary texts to their historical, political, and socio-cultural contexts.
- Learning about cultures and values other than one's own with a view to re-assess traditional notions/ideas while also exploring connections and continuities.
- Debating important issues related to identity, cultural diversity, race, and gender.
- Improving academic writing skills through the development of a critical perspective in literary/cultural analysis and building persuasive arguments through a series of formal essays.

Course Material:

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Salman Rushdie, *East, West*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

Junot Diaz, *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Junichiro Tanizaki, *Naomi: A Novel*

We shall also study a selection of short poems that will be available online or kept on reserve at the library.

[Note: The textbooks will be available at the Carleton University Bookstore]

Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation: 10%

You will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions. **You are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the material according to the syllabus.**

[***NOTE***: Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in not being allowed to sit in exams or to hand in assignments.]

Weekly Journal: 10%

You need to post your thoughts, reflections on the material that has been discussed that week. Each entry should be minimum 150 words and need to be uploaded on CuLearn by 10 pm every Sunday (beginning September 11).

Response Papers (2): (15+20) 35%.

Two short response papers on any text or topic related to the course. They are not expected to be rigorously analytical research papers. They are rather your responses to a text (novel, short story, poem etc.) after it has been discussed in class. They should not be book reviews or summaries of

texts. These papers should demonstrate your comprehensive understanding of a text or issue as well as your ability to write with coherence and clarity.

The first response paper should be on one text and about 1.5 pages long. The second response paper should be on at least two texts and should explore a common theme that runs through both texts. It should be about 2.5 pages long (in size 12 font, 1.5 spacing). Both response papers should follow MLA style. (Due on September 28 and November 16 respectively).

Midterm: 20%. The midterm will be held in class during regular class hours. The students will be tested on their overall understanding of the material covered up to that point. The format will be decided in consultation with the class. (October 19)

Final Exam: 25%. The final exam will take place during the formal examination period at the end of the fall semester. It will evaluate the students' understanding and retention of the course material including class lectures and discussions. The format will be a combination of short and long answer type questions. The students will be able to choose from a list of questions within each of the two sections (short and long).

Course Policies

-- All assignments are mandatory and class tests need to be written on the dates specified. If you are unable to make it to class on the day of an in-class assignment, please send me an e. mail in advance as soon as you can. You will need to provide a doctor's note (if you are ill) or other relevant documentation.

-- In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day unless there is a pressing and well-documented reason and you have informed me beforehand.

-- All assignments (take-home, essays and term papers) need to be handed in class. Please do not drop in the department drop-box (unless specified in the syllabus or in class) or slip it under my door. If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Classroom Etiquette:

-- To ensure active participation and lively discussion in class, I do not recommend the use of laptops in class. However, if you wish to type your notes on the computer, you may do so using a word-processing software (e.g. MS Word). Please do not check e. mails or access social networking sites in class. All computers need to be closed during in-class assignments/tests. **Cell-phones need to be put away in silent mode during class hours.**

-- **Please come to class on time and be prepared to stay for the entire class.** Coming late or leaving early is highly disruptive and disrespectful towards your professor and fellow students. If you arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the door. If you leave early (unless there is a valid reason and you have informed me in advance, e.g. doctor's appointment), you will be marked absent for the day even if you have signed the attendance sheet. **Given that this is a 3-hour class, there will be a short break in between.**

-- **Please do not chat/whisper during a lecture, screening, or class discussions. It is unacceptable in a university setting.**

-- Although it is expected that we shall discuss a wide variety of perspectives on the topics discussed in this class, we are also required to do so in a respectful manner. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or ableist comments are unacceptable. To this end, **students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning conduct and academic standing as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar:** The Undergraduate Calendar can be accessed online at: <http://www.carleton.ca/cuuc/>

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction

September 4 (**Friday, follows Monday Schedule**)

Introduction

Week 2: Colonial Encounter

September 14: *Things Fall Apart*

Week 3: Colonial Encounter

September 21: *Things Fall Apart*

Week 4: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

September 28: *East, West* (**First Response Paper Due**)

Week 5: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

October 5: *East, West* + poems (link to be uploaded on CuLearn)

Week 6: No Classes

October 12: Statutory Holiday; No Classes

Week 7: Midterm

October 19: **Midterm**

Week 8: Fall Break

October 26: Fall Break; No Classes

Week 9: Gender, Culture, and Migration

November 2: *Persepolis*

Week 10: Gender, Culture, and Migration

November 9: *Persepolis* + poems (link to be uploaded on CuLearn)

Week 11: Coming of Age in the Diaspora

November 16: *Oscar Wao*; **Second Response Paper Due**

Week 12: Coming of Age in the Diaspora

November 23: *Oscar Wao*

Week 13: Clash of Cultures/Civilizations

November 30: *Naomi*

Week 14: Review

December 7: *Naomi* + Review

Academic Honesty (PLAGIARISM)

All students are expected to be aware of and abide by the University's academic integrity policy. Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This can include:

-- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

Student Services:

All students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the services offered at Carleton University, such as the following:

Learning Support Services (LSS): LSS offers students a variety of free services, including academic-skills workshops and information sessions, bookable study rooms, a Tutor Referral Service, and a supportive staff of Peer Helpers. To learn more about these services, visit LSS on the fourth floor of the MacOdrum Library, contact them by phone at 613-520-2600, ext. 1125, or visit them online at www.carleton.ca/lss.

Writing Tutorial Service (WTS): The WTS offers students free one-on-one assistance with academic writing. To learn more about this free service, visit www.carleton.ca/wts.

To make an appointment for a 50-minute session, call 613-520-2600, ext. 1125, or visit in person at the LSS Help Desk on the fourth floor of the MacOdrum Library. You can also book your appointment online. <https://carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/appointments>.

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): SASC offers students support in the form of free one-on-one academic advising and study-skills appointments. To learn more about these services, visit www.carleton.ca/sasc. To make appointments for an advising or study-skills session, call 613-520-2600, ext. 7850, or visit the centre in person at 302 Tory.

Career Development and Co-operative Education (CDCE): CDCE is an on-campus centre for career development, employment preparation, and experiential learning opportunities for Carleton students. Students are encouraged to use the various services provided by CDCE throughout their time at Carleton by visiting its two service locations. The Career and Resource Centre is located at 401 Tory (613-520-6611); the Co-op and Employer Centre is located at 1400 CTTC (613-520-4331).

International Student Services Office (ISSO): ISSO is at the heart of Carleton's international student community. It supports international students, including incoming and outgoing exchange students, and promotes cross-cultural understanding within the Carleton community. ISSO is also responsible for the administration of Carleton's 80+ exchange programs. For more information, visit ISSO at 128 University Centre or contact by phone 613-520-6600. For general email inquiries, write to isso@carleton.ca; for exchange-program inquiries, write to exchange@carleton.ca. Website: www.carleton.ca/isso.

The Office of Student Affairs: The Office of Student Affairs oversees the Co-Curricular Record. The Co-Curricular Record is an official record designed as a means of recognizing all students' "out of class" involvement in student leadership development, extra-curricular activities, and Carleton community service opportunities. To learn more about the Record, visit 430 Tory (613-520-2573), or www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-

related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation for religious observance should make a formal, written request to the instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Please make requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. Accommodation will be worked out directly, and on an individual basis, between the student and instructor. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. If you have any questions about this, please refer to the Equity Services website (<http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>) for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodations policies. You may also contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Studies Advisor in Equity Services (<http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>) to complete a Letter of Accommodation. The student must also make an appointment with me to discuss her needs at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.