

Department of English
Winter 2014
ENGL 4976A: Issues in Postcolonial Literature

Time: Friday 11:30-2:30

Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
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***Please note that this is a preliminary syllabus and there might be some changes in the final version!

Course Description

This course focuses on the literature that has arisen out of colonial experience and decolonization in different parts of the world including Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean. In particular, this seminar will concentrate on forms of dislocation and displacement as experienced by and expressed in the writings of the postcolonial authors in the diaspora. We shall study novels, short stories and memoirs that record the experiences of transnational mobility including exile and migration (forced and voluntary). Some of the issues that we shall focus on include indigeneity, belonging and the notions of home and homelessness. The course also intends to introduce the students to the broad theoretical coordinates within postcolonial studies that address the ideologies of the home and the nation, politics of identity (including nuances of race and gender), and the affective dimensions of migration and diaspora.

Course Material

Required Texts:

Amitav Ghosh *Sea of Poppies*

Caryl Philips *Crossing the River*

Jhumpa Lahiri *Namesake*

Monica Ali *Brick Lane*

In addition, we shall read selected theoretical essays which will be circulated/placed on reserve.

We shall also watch and study one feature film: *Dirty Pretty Things* (2002; Dir. Stephen Frears).

NOTE: All required texts are available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; www.octopusbooks.ca; 613.233.2589).

Evaluation

20% -- Attendance + Participation. Students will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions.

[*NOTE***:** Students are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the materials according the syllabus. **Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in a 'Failed' final grade, regardless of submitted assignments or exam results.]**

10% -- Weekly e. mail responses on CuLearn message board (on weekly readings).

20% -- Seminar Presentation. (20-25 minutes). Group presentations (2-3 students in a group) must be well-researched and presented in either paper-format or Powerpoint. Must focus on a specific text or author. Dates to be fixed in consultation with the class.

15% -- Research Paper 1 (6-8 pages, font size 12, double spaced). May be written on a single text or on a dominant theme recurrent in more than one text discussed in class.

25% -- Research Paper 2 (10-12 pages, font size 12, double spaced). Must include at least two or more texts/authors from the syllabus. Must have a substantial thesis and demonstrate the use of secondary material. The title and a brief outline of the paper should be handed in by a stipulated date. The paper will be due on the last day of class.

10% -- Annotated bibliography (for Research paper 2). Must follow MLA guidelines and each entry should summarize the major focus and argument(s) of the texts consulted. Must be handed in by a stipulated date.