

Carleton University  
Early Summer 2023  
Department of English

**ENGL 3605 A: Modern and Contemporary Literary Theory**  
**Topic: *Performances of Cultural Identity***  
**Prerequisites: third-year standing or permission of the department**  
**Preclusions: ENGL 3002 (no longer offered)**

**Tuesdays / Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm**  
**Format: Online (Blended)**

**Instructor: John Coleman**  
**Email: [johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca)**  
**Office Hours: On Zoom by appointment**

**Course outline subject to changes before first class**

- I. **Course description:** This online blended course introduces students to production-focused literary theory with emphasis on performances and constructions of identity within the postcolonial and global literatures niches. We will study foundational theories of race, postcolonialism, cultural studies and literary production that are influenced by structuralist, deconstructive, historicist and materialist approaches. We will also analyze literary and cultural texts by diasporic and postcolonial authors. Discussions will focus on the marketing and promotion of literary works; negotiations of identity embedded within texts; and the enabling and constraining experiences of authors from minoritized backgrounds. We will have asynchronous course components as well as synchronous Zoom class meetings.
- II. **Learning Outcomes:** The purpose of this course is for students to:
- Be introduced to critical approaches to cultural identity and cultural production in contemporary literary theory
  - Be introduced to recent critical debates about what it can be like to be a writer or cultural producer in multicultural society
  - Learn approaches for applying theory to readings of literary and cultural texts
  - Practice and develop academic research, communication and writing skills

### III. Texts:

All required texts will be available either on Ares (Carleton's online course reserve system), or as a link posted on Brightspace. The scheduled dates for all of our readings are listed on the course calendar below.

### IV. Course calendar:

Date	Readings and Activities	Due
May 4	<b>Introduction to the course</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Outline</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Culler, “Literature and cultural studies”</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Dale Parker, “Postcolonial and race studies,” <b>pp. 285-295</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Parker, Lecture Video 1</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Edward Said, Introduction to <i>Orientalism</i>, pp.1-9</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Dale Parker, “Postcolonial and race studies,” <b>pp. 296-300</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Parker, Lecture Video 2</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart Hall, “Encoding and Decoding in the Television Discourse”</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	<b>Prompt Journal: First Submission, Due May 18, 11:59pm</b>
May 23	<b>Reading Response Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graham Huggan, Introduction to <i>The Postcolonial Exotic: Marketing the Margins</i>, <b>pp. 1-20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Huggan, Lecture Video 1 &amp; 2</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Reading Response: Due May 25, 11:59pm</b>
May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claire Squires, “Publishing Contexts and Market Conditions,” <b>pp. 19-39</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Squires, Lecture Video 1</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC Osundu, “Waiting”: <a href="https://www.guernicamag.com/waiting/">https://www.guernicamag.com/waiting/</a></li> <li>• Dobrota Pucherová, “‘A Continent Learns to Tell its Story at Last’: Notes on the Caine Prize”</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	<b>Quiz (Available on Brightspace from 8:00 am-11:59 pm)</b>
June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anamik Saha, “Locating MIA: ‘Race’, commodification and the politics of production”</li> <li>• <b>Watch “<a href="#">Jimmy</a>” and “<a href="#">Borders</a>” by MIA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MIA, Lecture Video 1</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

June 8	<b>Conducting Effective Research</b> – See Resources on Brightspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	<b>Prompt Journal: Second Submission, Due June 8</b>
June 13	<b>Research Essay Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, “‘As He Himself Puts It’: The Art of Quoting”</li> <li>• <b>Zoom Class Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm</b></li> </ul>	
June 15	<b>Essay Drop-In Session – Held on Zoom 6:30-7:30pm</b> (Attendance Optional)	<b>Research Essay: Due June 15</b>

**Note:** The **Readings and Activities** and **Due** sections of the course calendar list what you should read and submit for each class:

- Readings are listed by author and/or title. These are expected to be read by class on their scheduled date. .
- Please note that additional reading materials, such as lecture slides, videos, factsheets or review materials, may be posted on Brightspace throughout the course.

#### **V. Evaluation:**

**General criteria that influence grading:** *All work completed for this course will receive a numerical grade that corresponds to the guidelines set out by the Faculty of Arts:*

90-100 – A+; 85-89 – A; 80-84 – A-; 77-79 – B+; 73-76 – B; 70-72 – B-; 67-69 – C+; 63-66 – C; 60-62 – C-; 57-59 – D+; 53-56 – D; 50-52 – D-; Below 50 – F

All term work will be subject to the following general evaluation criteria:

Each student is encouraged to genuinely engage with course material by expressing clear ideas about assigned readings, lecture material and class discussions.

Furthermore, it is paramount for students to display a genuine attempt at:

- (a) developing writing and comprehension skills
- (b) genuine, critical engagement with course material

*Aside from the discussion posts and replies, all written assignments designated under “Term Work” will be subject to the following evaluative criteria in addition to any particular criteria stated in each assignment’s outline:*

- 1) Written assignments are to be presented in MLA citation style and format. All references must be cited parenthetically in your prose. Written assignments should be formatted following MLA style (typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman Font, numbered pages, identification info at top left-hand corner of page one). Students are encouraged to consult the Eighth Edition of the *MLA Handbook*.

- 2) Where applicable, significant consideration will be paid to:
- (a) accuracy in identifying texts, authors and context
  - (b) effective expression and communication of ideas through proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence and paragraph structure

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Term Work:**

- **Reading Response, due May 25, 20% of final grade:**

Students will write a reading response based on a text and topic assigned by the instructor. The assignment instructions will be provided in advance of the due date.

- **Zoom Class Meeting Attendance and Participation, 15% of the final grade:**

Students are required to attend a minimum of 8 Zoom class meetings.

- **Quiz, June 1, 15% of the final grade**

- **Research Essay, due June 15, 30% of the final grade:**

Students will write a formal research essay in response to one of a few writing prompts which the instructor will provide. Further explanation will be provided in the assignment instructions in advance of the due date.

- **Prompt Journal, 20% of the final grade (pass/fail grading):**
  - **First submission (early feedback assignment): May 18**
  - **Second submission: June 8**

In class, students will be given prompts to complete. These will be brief, engaging discussion activities and responses designed to get students thinking about our texts, topics, and larger writing assignments. Further explanation will be provided in the assignment instructions.

The Prompt Journal is designed to provide students with manageable exercises to be completed independently throughout the term. Written feedback will not be provided. To receive a passing grade, responses to 4 prompts must be adequately completed. Otherwise, the journal will receive a lower and possibly a failing grade. Students must be in attendance on the day a prompt is given to be able to submit that prompt in their Prompt Journal. Otherwise, that prompt can not be submitted.

**Policy on attendance:** To succeed in this course, regular attendance at our class is necessary. It is very strongly encouraged for students to strive to attend each meeting, when lectures, and in-

class assignments and prompts, will be given, and when students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities.

**Policy on submitting assignments:** All term work is due in digital format on Brightspace on the date and time noted on the course calendar. Submission portals where students can submit assignments will be made available on Brightspace. Assignment instructions will specify the method of submission for each assignment; this will include typing directly in an assignment portal on Brightspace, uploading an assignment as a Microsoft Word .docx or PDF file to an assignment portal on Brightspace, or another method to be specified by the instructor. Submission of an assignment outside of these specifications will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students are reminded to always keep a saved digital file as well as a hard copy (physical print out) of all assignments submitted.

**Policy on returning graded assignments:** Aside from the Prompt Journal and Research Essay, the instructor will strive to return all graded assignments within two weeks of the due date. The primary methods of returning graded assignments will be via the assignment portal on Brightspace with feedback and/or the grade.

**Late Assignment Policy:** Aside from the Prompt Journal and Research Essay, after an assignment's due date, each late assignment will be docked 2% per day up until one week after the due date, after which it will receive a grade of zero.

Late research essays and late prompt journals will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

- **Late assignments may not receive written comments or feedback.**

**Policy on Extensions:** Aside from for the Prompt Journal and Research Essay, extensions for term work will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a student is aware in advance that an extension will be needed, they must provide the instructor with a valid reason at least one week before the due date, and a new due date may be negotiated.

In emergency circumstances within one week of the due date, the instructor must be made aware of the situation and valid reasons necessitating an extension immediately, and a new due date may be negotiated.

For late assignments to be accepted without being docked late marks, official documentation noting the student's inability to attend class and/or complete school work, such as a doctor's note or documentation of a personal emergency, may be necessary.

**Absolutely no extensions will be provided for the Prompt Journal or Research Essay.**

**Statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility:** Diversity is valued in this course. Students from a variety of different backgrounds and walks of life (ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities, races, nationalities, religions, and cultures) are to feel included and welcome to share their thoughts and perspectives. Furthermore, students are encouraged to interpret their peers' perspectives and ideas with respect, and to see our course as a learning environment which values the input of people from diverse backgrounds and places of knowing.

A variety of measures will also be made to make our course materials accessible. To request additional measures or alternate assignment submission formats, please contact the instructor at [johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca)

Carleton University is located on the ancestral, unceded land of the Algonquin Nation.

**Content Advisory:** The texts assigned in this course sometimes engage with and directly depict difficult issues, including prejudice, injustices, oppression, violence, and uses of racist or derogatory language. Our class discussions will consider, through a critical lens, the impacts of the kinds of oppression represented in these texts. We will also consider how the texts' forms of representation can be understood as helping to highlight and critique oppression.

Our discussions will focus on how these authors themselves do not as acts of oppression use derogatory terms or represent cruelty and abuse, but rather to reflect on and critique racism, sexism and other forms of oppression part of people's lives in the communities they represent in their writing. If you have concerns about reading any of our texts, please feel free to email the instructor about this at [johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca)

**Policy on Racialized and Derogatory Language:** As they may become the topic of discussions about our texts, the instructor will not vocalize racial epithets or other derogatory terms, and students are asked to comply with this policy. In class discussions and in written work, when quoting passages, simply omit racist or derogatory terms, or substitute a generic term such as "blank." If you have any questions about the best course of action to take in a given situation, please feel free to email the instructor.

**Policy on lost assignments:** If a student claims to have submitted an assignment and the instructor has not received the assignment, the student must email the instructor an electronic version of the assignment within two hours of email request by the instructor.

**Policy on returning graded assignments:** The instructor will strive to return all graded assignments within two weeks of the due date. The primary methods of returning graded assignments will be: via the assignment portal on Brightspace with edits, comments and/or a rubric; and as a Microsoft Word .docx file, with a completed rubric, and with the Track Changes function used to show edits and comments.

**Policy on communicating with the instructor:** The instructor will be available during office hours (Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.) over email and Zoom, when students can email the instructor and get a quick response, or connect to the Zoom office hours portal on Brightspace. Outside of office hours, the instructor can be contacted by email; from Monday to Friday, the instructor will strive to reply to emails within 24 hours; emails received on weekends or holidays will be replied to on the following weekday that the university is open.

**Statement on Accessibility:** A variety of measures will be made to make our course materials accessible. To request additional measures or alternate assignment submission formats, please contact the instructor at [johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:johncoleman3@cunet.carleton.ca).

## VI. Statement on Plagiarism

Some departments have a standard statement, and some instructors have their own. Either of these options is fine, but please ensure that these statements are consistent with the university's Academic Integrity Policy when it comes to definitions, potential penalties and the like. The policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-2021.pdf>

Please find an example below.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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;
- 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.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## VII. Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

**Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

## **VIII. Statement on Pandemic Measures**

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

**Feeling sick?** Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see



the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

## **IX. Requests for Academic Accommodations**

Please include the following text, provided by Equity and Inclusive Communities, on all course outlines, and read it at the beginning of your first few classes to remind students. For details, see the [accommodations section](#) and the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#).

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy:** 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 accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**Religious obligation:** 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 [click here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience.

Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>