

**Carleton University
Fall 2020
Department of English**

**ENGL 1009A: *Literature in Global Context*
Mondays and Wednesdays
8:35 am-9:55 am
*Format: Blended***

**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca
Office: Dunton Tower 1907**

Phone: 613-520-2600 (ext. 2117)

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 -2:00 pm or by appointment*
(*on Big Blue Button; details and link provided on the CuLearn course-page)**

I. 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(s), and the realities of the postcolonial global existence. The readings will include novels, short stories, graphic novels, selected poetry, and non-fiction.

II. Course Format/Mode of Delivery

The course will be offered in the blended format, i.e. it will be taught as a blend or combination of synchronous live meetings and asynchronous activities. For the synchronous part of the course, the students will require reliable high-speed internet access and a computer with microphone (and ideally a webcam). A headset would be very useful too.

The asynchronous activities will take place on the course page on CuLearn, which would be the figurative home for this course

(<https://culearn.carleton.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=156081>) and you will be able to access it a few days before the first week of classes. This page will contain course lectures, videos, announcements, links to readings, as well as platforms to submit your assignments, post discussion entries, take quizzes etc. So, it is absolutely imperative that you access the course page regularly to succeed in this course!

What is a Blended Course?

An online course where there is a mixture of synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities. This means students need to be prepared to meet some of the time online via web conferencing tools at scheduled days and times. The specific dates will be communicated by the instructor in the course outline. The asynchronous activities are intended to provide flexibility to students when the class is not meeting synchronously. Students are expected to remain up to date with the deadlines and due dates provided by the instructor. These courses require reliable high-speed Internet access and a computer (ideally with a webcam), and a headset with a microphone.

III. Learning Outcomes:

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify 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.
- Investigate and situate literary texts vis-à-vis their historical, political, and socio-cultural contexts.
- Investigate and appraise cultures and values other than one's own with a view to re-assess traditional notions/ideas while also exploring connections and continuities.
- Develop a critical perspective in literary/cultural analysis of issues related to identity, cultural diversity, race, and gender.

IV. Texts:

- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (ISBN 13: 978-0385667838)
- Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (ISBN 13: 978-0374527075)
- Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis* (ISBN 13: 978-0375714832)
- Salman Rushdie, *East, West* (ISBN 13: 978-0394281506)
- Junichiro Tanizaki, *Naomi: A Novel* (ISBN 13: 978-0375724749)

Hard copies of the books have been ordered through Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; www.octopusbooks.ca; 613.233.2589). **You will be able to order the books directly from the course page for ENGL 1009 on their website: <http://shop.octopusbooks.ca/ENGL1009>.**

The books will be available for curbside pick-up or shipping.

E-copies of the books are also available through Kindle, Google Books and other platforms. It is very important to procure the books well in advance to keep up with the course schedule.

In addition to these books, we shall also study a selection of short texts (short stories, poetry, creative non-fiction), that will be available through Library Reserves on the CuLearn course page.

V. Evaluation

Introductory activities/quizzes: 5%

The students will take one “Course Intro” quiz (2%) that will test the understanding of the fundamentals of the course – its content, assignment structure, and requirements; complete a plagiarism quiz (1%) to ensure that they have read and understood what constitutes plagiarism as well as the strategies to avoid it; and write a forum post on the “Know your Classmates” forum (2%). Details and prompts for the forum post will be available on CuLearn.

Virtual Engagement: 10%

Throughout the term, the students are expected to actively participate in guided group discussions and other activities during the live synchronous sessions. In addition, there will be feedback forms, a self-assessment exercise, as well as optional activities on CuLearn. A rubric will be provided with criteria for evaluation of these components.

Response Papers (2): 15 % (2X 7.5)

The students will write two short response papers (500 words) on specific topics related to a text, after it has been discussed in class. These papers should not be book reviews or plot summaries of the texts. They should demonstrate your engagement with a text or an issue, as well as your ability to write with coherence and clarity. Detailed guidelines, instructions, and rubric of evaluation will be provided on CuLearn. **(Due on September 30 and November 18)**

Content Quizzes (5) = 20% (5X4)

There will be five quizzes to check your engagement with the course texts as well as your comprehension of key concepts and issues. Detailed instructions will be provided on CuLearn. **The dates are identified on the class schedule.**

Knowledge base creation/Source-bank entries (5): 10% (5X2)

The students will locate a credible, academic source (e.g. a journal article, book chapter, educational video etc.) related to a course text (as specified), cite the source according to MLA guidelines, and write an entry of minimum 150 words on the gist and relevance of the source. The purpose of this assignment is to create a knowledge base for each of the five texts, through the collaborative compilation of credible and academic secondary sources. The entries need to be posted on a dedicated CuLearn 'Source-bank' forum by the due date. Detailed instructions and samples will be provided on CuLearn. Each student will write five entries throughout the term. **The dates are identified on the class schedule.**

Academic Blog Creation (Group Activity): 25%

Challenging as it might be in the online format, it is essential to build connections with your teaching team as well as your classmates to make the online learning enjoyable and meaningful. To that end, we shall endeavor to build a sense of community in this course, as you learn together through discussion, debates, and sharing of information and resources. At the beginning of the term, CuLearn will assign each student to a group (of 10-12 students), and you will be in this group for the entire duration of the course. Each group will be assigned one course text, and the group members will collaborate throughout the term to build an informative and engaging academic blog dedicated to that text. Detailed instructions, guidelines, and rubric of evaluation will be provided on CuLearn. **(Due on December 9)**

Final Exam (take-home): 15%

The final exam will be in the form of a take-home assignment. It will have a comparative and reflective component. Detailed instructions, guidelines, and rubric of evaluation will be provided on CuLearn. **(Due on December 16)**

Please note that the 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.

Grading System

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Rules and Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 B+ = 77-79 C+ = 67-69 D+ = 56-59

A = 85-89 B = 73-76 C = 63-66 D = 53-56

A - = 80-84 B - = 70-72 C - = 60-62 D - = 50-52

F = Failure. No academic credit. WDN = Withdrawn from the course

VI. Course calendar/Reading schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

September 9: Introduction (live synchronous meeting)

Week 2: Colonial Encounters/Whose Story?

September 14: *Things Fall Apart*

Dangers of a Single Story + "Today a Balance of Stories"

September 16: *Things Fall Apart* (live synchronous meeting)

Week 3: Colonial Encounters/Whose Story? (contd.)

September 21: *Things Fall Apart* [**Content Quiz on Things Fall Apart**]

September 23: *Things Fall Apart* (live synchronous meeting)

[*Things Fall Apart* source entry due]

Week 4: Colonial Legacies

September 28: *Life and Debt*

September 30: *A Small Place* [**Response Paper 1 Due**]

Week 5: Childhood, Gender, Culture

October 5: *A Small Place*

[Content Quiz on *A Small Place*]

October 7: "Girl" + *A Small Place* (live synchronous meeting)

[A Small Place source entry due]

Week 6: Childhood, Gender, Culture

October 12: *Persepolis Book 1*

October 14: *Persepolis Book 1* (live synchronous meeting)

Week 7: Short texts

October 19: Selected short stories/poems **[Content Quiz on *Persepolis Bk. 1*]**

October 21: Selected short stories/poems

[Persepolis source entry due]

Week 8: Fall Break!

Week 9: Migration and Identity

November 2: *Persepolis Book 2* **[Content Quiz on *Persepolis Bk. 2*]**

November 4: *Persepolis Book 2* (live synchronous meeting)

Week 9: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

November 9: *East, West: East Stories*

November 11: *East, West: East Stories* (live synchronous meeting)

[East, West source entry due]

Week 10: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

November 16: *East, West: West Stories*

November 18: *East, West: West Stories* (live synchronous meeting) **[Response Paper 2 due]**

Week 11: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

November 23: *East, West: West Stories* **[Content Quiz on *East, West*]**

November 25: *East, West: East-West Stories* (live synchronous meeting)

Week 12: Clash of Cultures/Civilizations

November 30: *East, West: East-West Stories*

December 2: *Naomi* (live synchronous meeting)

[Naomi source entry due]

Week 13: Clash of Cultures/Civilizations

December 7: *Naomi*

December 9: *Naomi* (Live synchronous meeting) [**Blog Creation Assignment due**]

December 11: Review

VII. Course Policies

Attendance: The schedule of the live synchronous meetings is provided above. The link to join the meetings will be sent over the e.mail.

Assignments: All assignments are mandatory and must be completed by the due date specified. The assignments must be submitted on CULearn.

Late Submission Policy: In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day. Deadline extensions will be considered when there is a legitimate, well-documented reason and must be requested in advance of the deadline. Relevant documentation may be required.

Communication: To communicate with your teaching team (professor or the TA), please send an e.mail from your Carleton e.mail address. We are committed to responding to student e-mails within 2 working days (not including weekends). If you do not receive a response within that time frame, then there is a strong possibility of a technical error; so, please re-send the e-mail.

There will be forums on CuLearn to ask questions as well as links to set up a one-to-one meeting.

Live Synchronous Meetings: Live sessions in this course may be recorded and made available to students, if needed. If you have concerns about being recorded, please email me directly so we can discuss your concerns.

Course Outline: There may be changes to this course outline, including to the course schedule, to facilitate optimum learning. Students will be notified in class and through e.mail about the changes, if necessary.

Course Material Copyright: The lectures and course materials (including all recordings, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and similar materials) are protected by copyright and the course instructor is the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property of all course materials. Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without the express written consent of the instructor.

Fair and Respectful Participation: Students are encouraged to connect with their peers as much as possible. 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. To this end, students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning conduct and academic standing as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
- preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Carleton University Equity Services states that “every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment.”

VIII. Statement on 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.” 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.

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/>

IX. Requests for 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 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](#).

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 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 must 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>

X. Student Support

There is a robust network of student support at Carleton University. You are strongly encouraged to utilize these services if you find yourself in need.

Here is a list of support services:

- [Student Support Services](#)
- [CuLearn Support](#)
- [CuLearn 10 Tips and Tricks](#) (useful suggestions for how students can get the most out of cuLearn)
- [Information Technology Services](#) (contact information)
- [BigBlueButton Support](#)
- [Library Support](#)
- [Health and Counselling Services](#)

You may also explore Carleton's [Student Services Directory](https://students.carleton.ca/) (https://students.carleton.ca/)