

**Carleton University
Fall 2016
Department of English**

ENGL 1009A: Literature in Global Context
Time: Monday 2:35pm-5:25 pm
Location: Tory Building 240
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
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Office: DT 1915
Phone: 613-520-2600 (X 2317)
Office Hours: Monday 12:30 – 1:30 pm or by appointment

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 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.

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 an 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 October 3 and November 21 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 31.)

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). **But absolutely no internet browsing/e. mail**

checking/social-networking 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.

-- **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 12: Introduction

Week 2: Colonial Encounter

September 19: *Things Fall Apart*

Week 3: Colonial Encounter

September 26: *Things Fall Apart*

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

October 3: *East, West* + poems (link to be uploaded on CuLearn) **(First Response Paper Due)**

Week 5: No Classes

October 10: Statutory Holiday; No Classes

Week 6: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

October 17: *East, West*

Week 7: Fall Break

October 24: Fall Break; No Classes

Week 8: Midterm

October 31: **Midterm**

Week 9: Gender, Culture, and Migration

November 7: *Persepolis*

Week 10: Gender, Culture, and Migration

November 14: *Persepolis* + poems (link to be uploaded on CuLearn)

Week 11: Coming of Age in the Diaspora

November 21: *Oscar Wao*; **(Second Response Paper Due)**

Week 12: Coming of Age in the Diaspora

November 28: *Oscar Wao*

Week 13: Clash of Cultures/Civilizations + Review

December 5: *Naomi*

December 9 (Friday, follows Monday schedule): *Naomi* + Review

Academic Honesty

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."

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.

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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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.