

**Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English**

ENGL 1009A: Literature in Global Context

(Precludes additional credits for ENGL 1000, ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300, ENGL 1400, FYSM 1004)

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 8:35 am-9:55 am

Location: Southam Hall 502

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty

Email: mayurika.chakravorty@carleton.ca

Office: DT 1907

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 am-12:00 noon

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 texts (short stories, poetry, creative non-fiction) that will be available through ARES on CuLearn.

[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 Monday. You will have to write eight (8) journal entries in all.

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 engagement with specific text(s) or topics, as well as your ability to write with coherence and clarity. Detailed guidelines will be uploaded on CuLearn.

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. **(January 30 and March 20)**

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. **(February 27)**

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/Colonial Encounter

January 9: Introduction

January 11: *Things Fall Apart*

Week 2: Colonial Encounter

January 16: *Things Fall Apart* + selected poems (available on CuLearn)

January 18: *Things Fall Apart* + Achebe essay

Week 3: East and West: Can the 'twains meet?

January 23: *Things Fall Apart*

January 25: *East, West*

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

January 30: *East, West* + poems (available on CuLearn)

(First Response Paper Due)

February 1: Library Workshop

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

February 6: *East, West* + poems (available on CuLearn)

February 8: *East, West*

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

February 13: Selected non-fiction (available on CuLearn)

February 15: *CSAS Skill Development Workshop in class*

Week 7: Winter Break (No classes)

Week 8: Midterm

February 27: Midterm

March 1: *Persepolis*

Week 9: Gender, Culture, and Migration

March 6: *Persepolis*

March 8: *Persepolis*

Week 10: Gender, Culture, and Migration

March 13: *Persepolis* + poems/selected non-fiction (available on CuLearn)

March 15: *CSAS Skill Development Workshop in class*

Week 11: Coming of Age in the Diaspora

March 20: *Oscar Wao* (**Second Response Paper Due**)

March 22: *Oscar Wao* + Diaz essay (available on CuLearn)

Week 12: Coming of Age in the Diaspora/ Clash of Cultures/Civilizations

March 27: *Oscar Wao*

March 29: *Naomi*

Week 13: Clash of Cultures/Civilizations + Review

April 3: *Naomi* + Yamamoto short story (on CuLearn)

April 5: *Naomi*

Week 14: Review

April 10: 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. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

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:

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 see the [Student Guide](#).

For 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 more details see the [Student Guide](#).