

Carleton University
Fall 2021
Department of English

ENGL 4976 A: Issues in Postcolonial Literature

Topic: Anti-colonial Resistance in Postcolonial Fiction

Prerequisites: fourth-year standing or permission of the department

Preclusions: precludes additional credit for ENGL 4906 (no longer offered)

Wednesday 8:35 am – 11:25 am

Location: online

Format: blended

Instructor: Adam Barrows

Email: adam.barrows@carleton.ca

Office: DT 1901

Phone: 613-520-2600 x4093

Office Hours: by appointment (virtual)

Course description: This course provides students with a grounding in twentieth-century anti-colonial discourse and theory while exploring the representation of anti-colonial resistance in novels by writers from the Global South. Novelists from India, Senegal, Palestine, and Nicaragua are represented.

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 4906 (no longer offered).

Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate familiarity with the foundations of twentieth-century anti-colonial discourse and theory. They will be able to analyze key themes in postcolonial literature, while conducting relevant literary critical research.

Required Texts: (all texts are available through Octopus Books:

<https://shop.octopusbooks.ca/ENGL4976>)

Belli, Gioconda. *The Inhabited Woman* (University of Wisconsin Press)

Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism* (Monthly Review Press)

Habiby, Emile. *The Secret Life of Saeed: The Pessimist* (Interlink Pub Group)

Rao, Raja. *Kanthapura* (New Directions)

Course calendar: (This schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion. All reading assignments must be completed before the date they are listed. Dates of required ZOOM discussions are listed).

Sept 8 Introduction/Syllabus Overview
(pre-recorded lecture posted on Brightspace by 8:35 am)

- Sept 15** Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Sept 22** Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (available on Brightspace)
Discussion Paper #1 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Sept 29** Fanon, “On Violence” (available on Brightspace)
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Oct 6** Rao, *Kanthapura* (Chapters 1-9)
Discussion Paper #2 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Oct 13** Rao, *Kanthapura* (Chapters 10-19)
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Oct 20** Sembene, *God’s Bits of Wood* (BAMAKO Ad’jibid’ji – DAKAR Madame Sofi (pages 1-127)) (available on Brightspace)
Discussion Paper #3 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Oct 27** **BREAK**
- Nov 3** Sembene, *God’s Bits of Wood* (second half of book (pages 128-248)) (available on Brightspace)
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Nov 10** Habiby, *The Secret Life of Saeed* (Book One)
Discussion Paper #4 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Nov 17** Habiby, *The Secret Life of Saeed* (Books Two and Three plus epilogue)
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Nov 24** Belli, *The Inhabited Woman* (Chapters 1-9)
Discussion Paper #5 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Dec 1** Belli, *The Inhabited Woman* (Chapters 10-18)
(required ZOOM meeting at 8:35 am)
- Dec 8** Belli, *The Inhabited Woman* (Chapters 19-28)
Discussion Paper #6 Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace
- Dec 10** **Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm on Brightspace**

Evaluation:

Attendance: 10%

Discussion Papers: 50%

Final Paper: 40%

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.

Attendance: There are six required ZOOM meetings this term. You must attend each meeting ready to participate in the discussion (having read the required material for that day). Cameras may be turned on for the entire meeting, although this is not required.

Discussion Papers: There are six discussion papers this term. Each paper will focus on a particular aspect of the reading for that day. Papers should be 2 double-spaced pages (12-point Times New Roman or equivalent). Discussion questions will be distributed via Brightspace at least one week before each due date. Papers are due as indicated on the course calendar by 11:59 pm on Brightspace. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of ten points for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Final Paper: You will write a 10 page thesis-driven paper (12-point Times New Roman or equivalent) on a theme related to anti-colonialism in postcolonial fiction. The papers should draw on examples from at least three syllabus texts and should include significant literary critical research into your topic (including at least four citations of secondary literature). Papers will be evaluated by the following criteria: originality and complexity of the theme chosen, effective argumentation, originality of primary text analysis, effectiveness of secondary research, clarity and effectiveness of style. Papers are due on Dec. 10 by 11:59 pm on Brightspace. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of ten points for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

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/>

Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

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

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 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>