

**Department of English  
Carleton University  
Fall 2017**

**ENGL 4976A: Issues in Postcolonial Literature:  
*Migrancy, Hybridity, and Transnationalism in Postcolonial Literature***

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the department

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 4906 (no longer offered)

**Time: Tuesday 11:30 am – 2:30 pm**

**Location: Dunton Tower 1816**

**(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty**

**Office: DT 1907**

**Office Hours: Monday 10:30 am – 12:00 noon (or by appointment)**

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**Tel: 613-520-2600 (extn. 2117)**

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on the literature that has arisen out of colonial experience and decolonization in different parts of the world including Africa, South Asia and the Caribbean. In particular, this seminar will concentrate on forms of dislocation and displacement as experienced by and expressed in the writings of the postcolonial authors in the diaspora. We shall study novels, short stories and memoirs that record the experiences of transnational mobility including exile and migration (forced and voluntary). Some of the issues that we shall focus on include indigeneity, belonging and the notions of home and homelessness. The course also intends to introduce the students to the broad theoretical coordinates within postcolonial studies that address the ideologies of the home and the nation, politics of identity (including nuances of race and gender), and the affective dimensions of migration and diaspora.

### **Course Material**

*Required Texts:*

Amitav Ghosh, *Sea of Poppies*

Caryl Phillips, *Crossing the River*

Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*

In addition, we shall read selected theoretical essays which will be uploaded/available through ARES on the CuLearn course page.

We shall also watch and study one feature film: *Dirty Pretty Things* (2002; Dir. Stephen Frears).

**NOTE:** All the required texts will be available at the Carleton University Bookstore.

### **Evaluation**

**20%** -- Participation. Students will be graded in terms of preparedness for the classes, as well as the level of participation in the seminars.

Students are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the materials according to the syllabus. **Absence from more than 5 classes per term may result in a 'Failed' final grade, regardless of submitted assignments or exam results.**

**10%** -- Weekly e. mail responses on CuLearn message board (on weekly readings).

**20%** -- Group Presentation (20-25 minutes). Group presentations (2-3 students in a group) must be well-researched and presented in either paper-format or Powerpoint/Prezi. Must focus on a specific text or author. Dates to be fixed in consultation with the class.

**15%** -- Research Paper 1 (6-8 pages, font size 12, double spaced). May be written on a single text or on a dominant theme recurrent in more than one text discussed in class.

**25%** -- Research Paper 2 (10-12 pages, font size 12, double spaced). Must include at least two or more texts/authors from the syllabus. Must have a substantial thesis and demonstrate the use of secondary sources (minimum 4-5). The title and a brief outline of the paper should be handed in by a stipulated date. The paper will be due on the last day of class.

**10%** -- Annotated bibliography (for Research paper 2). Must follow MLA guidelines and each entry should summarize the major focus and argument(s) of the texts consulted. Must be handed in by a stipulated date.

## **Course Policies/ Class Etiquette**

-- All Assignments are mandatory. 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 the student has informed me beforehand.

-- All assignments need to be handed in class (in addition to an electronic copy submitted through CuLearn). 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.

-- 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. Cell-phones need to be put away in silent mode during class hours.

-- Please come to class on time (and prepare to stay for the entire class) to be marked present for the day. If you have a pressing reason (e.g. a doctor's appointment) for late arrival or early departure, please inform me in advance. Given that this is a 3-hour class, there will be a short break in between.

-- In this class, you will be using CuLearn to communicate with me or with one another, submit assignments, post reflections or questions about the readings etc. You are responsible for ensuring that you have a Carleton computer/email account and for checking this account on a regular basis. I will be using CuLearn to post announcements, reminders, and grades as well as to email about anything related to this class. Please use the "mail" function in CuLearn to send me any messages. This will help to ensure that you have a record of any sent message in case it does not reach me.

-- 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.

## **Schedule of Classes**

### **September**

Sep 12 Introduction; Watch *Dirty Pretty Things*

Sep 19 Discussion on *Dirty Pretty Things* + “Postcolonial London” (McLeod) + “Airport” (Pico Iyer)

Sep 26 *Sea of Poppies* + “Diasporic Imaginary” (Mishra)

### **October**

Oct 3 *Sea of Poppies* + “Migrancy, Hybridity and Postcolonial Literary Studies” (Smith)

Oct 10 *Crossing the River* + from *The Black Atlantic* (Gilroy)

Oct 17 *Crossing the River* + *The Satanic Verses*     **[Research Paper 1 Due]**

Oct 23 **Fall Break – No Classes!**

Oct 31 *The Satanic Verses* + from *The Empire Writes Back* (Ashcroft et al.)

### **November**

Nov 7 *The Satanic Verses* + “Imaginary Homelands” (Rushdie)

Nov 14 *Brick Lane* + “Women in the Transnational World” (Spivak) **[Annotated Bibliography Due]**

Nov 21 *Brick Lane* + “Feminism and the Postcolonial Condition” (Suleri) + Presentation

Nov 28 Presentations

### **December**

Dec 5 Presentations + Review     **[Research Paper 2 Due]**

## **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:

**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 see the [Student Guide](#).

**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 see the [Student Guide](#).

**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*). **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](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).