



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA232/332
Postcolonial Fictions
Semester 2, 2007
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

Convenor:	Dr Victoria Burrows Room: Hum 562 Phone: 6226 1722 Email: Victoria.Burrows@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Fridays 11-1pm
Unit Description:	Provides a study of contemporary fiction from cultures that have been shaped by the experience of British colonialism and its aftermath. Texts are sourced from a range of national contexts including Britain, Canada, the Caribbean, India, and New Zealand. The emphasis is on significant and related areas such as the legacy of colonialism; 'writing back' to the Empire; postcolonial theory; the politics of speaking positions; gender and colonialism; and globalisation.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop the skills of close reading, critical thinking and textual analysis in relation to the field of postcolonial literatures• To explore the diverse ways in which postcolonial literatures are being analysed in contemporary postcolonial scholarship and theory and so become familiar with key concepts and terms• To enable students to engage critically and analytically with selected postcolonial texts and the theories through which they can be interpreted• To develop a knowledge of a variety of social and historical contexts that have resulted from the expansions of the British Empire and its ongoing postcolonial legacies• To offer a range of reading strategies for reading and understanding contemporary issues that surround an engagement with postcolonial texts

<p>Learning Outcomes:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of scholarly research, writing and analytical skills in a new literary field 2. To demonstrate familiarity with a range of theoretical and critical perspectives that have been brought to bear on the set texts 3. To enhance the ability to present informed discussion (written and spoken) of the ways the set texts relate to each other and the periods and cultures which produced them 4. To develop and enhance oral communication and oral presentation both of which will be developed in the tutorials
<p>Required Texts:</p>	<p>Unit Reader</p> <p>Kincaid, Jamaica, <i>Lucy</i></p> <p>Krog, Antjie, <i>Country Of My Skull</i></p> <p>Malouf, David, <i>Remembering Babylon</i></p> <p>Roy, Arundhati, <i>The God Of Small Things</i></p>
<p>Recommended Texts:</p>	<p>Ashcroft, Bill, Griffiths, Gareth, Tiffin, Helen. <i>Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies</i>. London & New York, 1998</p> <p>Gandhi, Leela. <i>Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction</i>. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998</p> <p>Loomba, Ania. <i>Colonialism/Postcolonialism</i>. London & New York: Routledge, 1998</p> <p>McLeod, John. <i>Beginning Postcolonialism</i>. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000</p>
<p>When Taught:</p>	<p>Lecture Mon 3.10pm-4.00pm SocSci209</p> <p>Tutorials (1x 90 minutes per week) Tue 9.00am-10.30am, Socsci581 or Tue 3.10pm-4.30pm, Socsci581 Or Fri 9-10.30am, Socsci581</p> <p>Film Screenings Mon 4.10-7.00pm, SB.UniCentre103.Flex N.B. Film screenings will be shown throughout the semester on the dates specified in the lecture schedule of this unit outline.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000-word essay due 4th October (60%) OR 1,000-word essay due 16th August (20%) and 2,000-word essay due 4th October (40%)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-hr exam (40%) |
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LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
16 th July	Introduction to Postcolonialism	Victoria Burrows
23 rd July	Postcolonial Theory	Victoria Burrows
30 th July	Caribbean short stories and historical and cultural context	Victoria Burrows
6 th August	Jamaica Kincaid's <i>Lucy</i>	Victoria Burrows
13 th August	Arundhati Roy's <i>The God of Small Things</i>	Victoria Burrows
	If doing 2 pieces of written work due date for 1000 word essay: Thursday 16th August 4pm	
20 th August	Indian short stories and historical and cultural context	Victoria Burrows
27 th August	<i>My Beautiful Launderette</i> , with screening after the lecture	Victoria Burrows
	Study Break	
10 th September	Antjie Krog, <i>Country of My Skull</i>	Victoria Burrows
17 th September	<i>Red Dust</i> , with screening after the lecture	Victoria Burrows
24 th September	David Malouf's <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	Victoria Burrows
1 st October	<i>Yolgnu Boy</i> , with screening after the lecture	Victoria Burrows
	Main essay due Thursday 4th October 4pm	
8 th October	<i>Mimi</i> (short film, screened at beginning of the lecture)	Pauline Marsh
15 th October	Australian short stories, historical and cultural context and conclusion	Victoria Burrows
	Study Period: Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th	
	Examination Period: Saturday 27th October – Tuesday 13th November	

Tutorial Attendance requirements:

Regular tutorial attendance is required and an attendance roll will be taken. If you fail to satisfy the attendance requirements and/or complete all assessments you may be deemed ineligible to sit the exam or be required to submit additional work.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of a critical essay or essays and an exam. You have a choice of writing **TWO** essays, one 1,000 word essay that will be due on 16th August (20%) and a 2,000-word essay due on 4th October (40%) which together will make up 60% of the overall mark. **OR** alternatively, you can write **ONE** 3,000 essay which will be due on 4th October and standing on its own it will be worth the full 60%.

At the end of the semester you will then sit a 2 hour exam which will be worth 40% of your overall mark.

Assessment criteria/guidelines:

Essays

Critical guidelines which applies to both essay options:

1. Effectiveness of introduction
2. Relevance and coherence of argument
3. Effectiveness of conclusion
4. Scope of textual referencing
5. Use of critics
6. Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading, MLA Style

An essay will **pass** if it presents a coherent argument that addresses the essay question, shows evidence of close reading of the text/s and demonstrates some engagement with issues raised in the lectures.

An essay is likely to receive a **credit or higher** if, in addition to the criteria for a pass, it presents: a clear and original approach in the construction of the argument; a range of research which extends beyond lecture material and references; a clear and engaging style of writing.

A **high distinction** signals only the most outstanding work, in terms of both substance and presentation. The student must have gone beyond lecture material and provided original insights into the subject.

Essays are **failed** in the following cases:

- there is clear evidence of plagiarism;
- there is not enough written text;
- the essay cannot be understood by the marker because of the standard of expression; and/or
- the discussion is irrelevant to the subject of the essay.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Examination

The exam will be of 2 hours duration and will be worth 40%. It will be scheduled in the official exam period and the examination timetable is published on the UTAS website. The exam will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3. The same Assessment Criteria/Guidelines apply, except in the case of academic referencing standards which do not get used in the exam.

Eligibility to sit the examination depends upon the completion and submission of all written work and **regular attendance at tutorials. If written work is not completed you will not be eligible to sit the end-of-semester examination.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc, MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)