



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA412
Postcolonial Narratives
Semester 2, 2007
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

Convenor:	Prof Helen Tiffin Room: Hum 568 Phone: 6226 2344 Email: Helen.Tiffin@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Tuesday 10:00 -11:30 am
Unit Description:	Postcolonial writing has changed the way we read. Over the past forty years, literary and critical texts have challenged canons, transformed notions of form and genre, and raised fundamental questions about language and readership. Postcolonialism has resituated readers in relation to contemporary and historical texts alike. Postcolonial theory developed concurrently with other theoretical projects, including poststructuralism, feminism, and Marxist criticism. This unit reviews recent developments in postcolonial studies across a range of regions, genres, texts, and issues.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To consider relationships between three groups of texts – canonical works of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries – and contemporary novels which in one way or other respond to these earlier texts.• To consider the ways in which contemporary post-colonial literary theory and scholarship in relation to our subject matter in the course is developing.• To explore the ways in which there is a shift – in the Humanities generally, and in literary study – towards a radical reconsideration of the place of animals and the environment in human affairs.• To consider the ways in which important post-colonial issues such as race and gender are being reconfigured in some contemporary literary texts, specifically in relation to the “factoring in” of non-human subjects.

<p>Learning Outcomes:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To enhance skills in writing, reading, research and class discussion and to become familiar with current critical scholarship in appropriate areas. b) To increase knowledge of contemporary post-colonial writing and critical scholarship, with particular attention to relationships between more traditional post-colonial concerns and extra-human issues. c) To develop a sense of the importance of genre, and of the ways in which intertextuality operates within specific contexts of ideas, production and consumption.
<p>Required Texts:</p>	<p>Conrad, Joseph, <i>Heart of Darkness & The Congo Diary</i> (Penguin Modern Classic)</p> <p>Achebe, Chinua, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (Penguin Red Classics)</p> <p>Gowdy Barbara, <i>The White Bone</i></p> <p>Bronte Charlotte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> (Penguin Red Classics)</p> <p>Rhys, Jean, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i></p> <p>Defoe, Daniel, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i></p> <p>Coetzee, JM, <i>Foe</i></p> <p>Martel, Yann, <i>Life Of Pi</i></p>
<p>Recommended Texts:</p>	<p>Thieme, John, <i>Post-Colonial Contexts</i></p>
<p>When Taught:</p>	<p>Thursday 9:00 - 11:50am, SB.Socsci309</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>5,000-word essay (subject to discussion with class in our first meeting).</p> <p>Assessment will cover learning outcomes a, b and c.</p> <p>Importance will be attached to scholarship, originality of ideas, and particularly the ability to write the English language correctly.</p>

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

N.B.: The Schedule will also be discussed in the first class

Week	Topic	Reading
July 19	Introduction to Course	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
July 26	A focus on Chinua Achebe's <i>Things Fall Apart</i> in comparison with <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
August 2	<i>The White Bone</i>	Gowdy, <i>The White Bone</i>
August 9	This week we will consider relationships between the three previous texts and the implications - ideological, generic etc. - of this intertextuality	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> , <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , <i>The White Bone</i>
August 16 NO CLASS ON THIS DATE, BUT A SUBSTITUTE TIME EARLIER THIS WEEK WILL BE NEGOTIATED	<i>Jane Eyre</i> and the place of the "foreign"	Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
August 23 THERE WILL BE NO CLASS THIS WEEK	NO CLASS	Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
August 30	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , <i>Jane Eyre</i> : Race and the animal	Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
September 3 – Sep 9	AVCC BREAK	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
September 13	<i>Foe</i>	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
September 20	<i>Life of Pi</i>	Martel, <i>Life of Pi</i>
September 27	Intertexts: <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , <i>Foe</i> , <i>Life of Pi</i>	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , <i>Foe</i> , <i>Life of Pi</i>
October 4	READING, RESEARCH AND WRITING (NO CLASS)	
October 11	OPTIONAL DISCUSSION AND REVISION	ALL
	Study Period: 22 Oct – 26 Oct	
	Examination Period: 27 Oct – 13 Nov	

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

A 5,000-word essay (subject to discussion with class during our first meeting).

Assessment will cover learning outcomes a, b and c in the Unit Outline.

Importance will be attached to scholarship, originality of ideas, and particularly the ability to write the English language correctly.

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: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day. 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).

Honours Marking Scale

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

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

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