



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEA412
Postcolonial Narratives
Semester 2, 2008
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

Convenor:	Prof Helen Tiffin Room: Hum 568 Phone: 6226 2344 (W) 6227 1558 (H)
Consultation Hours:	Wednesday 11.00 am – 12.00 pm Friday 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Unit Description:	This unit examines the ways in which postcolonial writers represent connections between traditional humanist concerns - for example, race and gender - and the "natural" environment. Through a detailed analysis of selected works from Africa, India, Canada, the Caribbean and Australia, we will explore how writers from both the settler colonies and the former colonies of occupation express their sometimes similar (and often divergent) views on land, animals and humans. A secondary focus of the course will be the importance of the use of specifically literary techniques in re-creating the environmental past and imagining possible futures.
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, ecocriticism and animal studies 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>	<p>a) To enhance skills in writing, reading, research and class discussion and to become familiar with current critical scholarship in appropriate areas.</p> <p>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 concerns.</p> <p>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>
<p>Required Texts:</p>	<p>Conrad, Joseph <i>Heart of Darkness</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> (Either edition)</p> <p>Defoe, Daniel <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (Any unabridged edition)</p> <p>Coetzee, J.M. <i>Foe</i> (Penguin)</p> <p>Martel, Yann <i>Life of Pi</i></p> <p>Coetzee, J.M. <i>Disgrace</i></p> <p>Findley, Timothy <i>Not Wanted on the Voyage</i></p>
<p>Recommended Texts:</p>	<p>Thieme, John, <i>Post-Colonial Contexts</i>; Nick Fiddes, <i>Meat</i>; Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin <i>The Empire Writes Back</i>.</p>
<p>When Taught:</p>	<p>Wednesday 1.10 – 4.00 pm SB.Socsci581</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 originality of ideas, scholarship, and particularly the ability to write the English language correctly and fluently.</p>

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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

Week	Class	Topic	Reading
1	July 16	Introduction to Course	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
2	July 23	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>
3	July 30	<i>The White Bone</i>	Gowdy, <i>The White Bone</i>
4	August 6	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>
5	August 13	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
6	August 20	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and J.M. Coetzee's <i>Foe</i>	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
7	August 27	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i> and <i>Life of Pi</i>	Martel, <i>Life of Pi</i>
		Mon 1 Sep – Fri 5 Sep Mid-Semester Break	Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
8	September 10	J.M. Coetzee <i>Disgrace</i>	Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
9	September 17	<i>Not Wanted on the Voyage</i>	Findley, <i>Not Wanted on the Voyage</i>
[10]	September 24	Review of Course – optional	Findley, <i>Not Wanted on the Voyage</i>
ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE IN BY 4.30 P.M. on MONDAY, OCTOBER 13.			

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.

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
- Careers Adviser
- Disability 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%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—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.