



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

### HEA232 Postcolonial Fictions

Semester 2, 2009

<http://www.utas.edu.au/english>

<b>Unit coordinator:</b>	Dr Katherine Bode	
<b>Contact details:</b>	Room:	566
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
	Telephone:	(03) 6226 2352
	Email:	Katherine.Bode@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation times:</b>	Wednesdays 3-5pm Thursdays 3-4pm	

<p><b>Unit description:</b></p>	<p>Provides a study of contemporary fiction from cultures that have been shaped by the experience of British colonialism and its aftermath. Using texts from a range of national contexts, 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 the politics of whiteness.</p>
<p><b>Unit aims and objectives:</b></p>	<p>This unit aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce students to a range of contemporary postcolonial texts</li> <li>2. Investigate the social and historical contexts that have resulted from the expansion of the British Empire and its ongoing postcolonial legacies</li> <li>3. Familiarize students with the field of postcolonialism by exposure to a variety of theoretical and critical approaches</li> <li>4. Offer students a range of strategies for reading and understanding postcolonial texts</li> <li>5. Develop the skills of close reading, critical thinking and textual analysis in relation to postcolonial texts</li> </ol>

<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop scholarly reading, writing and analytical skills in a new field</li> <li>2. To present informed discussion of the set texts with reference to the historical and cultural contexts in which they were produced</li> <li>3. To demonstrate familiarity with a range of theoretical and critical perspectives in postcolonialism</li> <li>4. To communicate effectively through       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a oral participation in tutorials</li> <li>b written essays</li> <li>c exams</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Required texts:</b></p>	<p>Unit Reader</p> <p>Gordimer, Nadine, <i>July's People</i></p> <p>Malouf, David, <i>Remembering Babylon</i></p> <p>Mda, Zakes, <i>Ways of Dying</i></p> <p>Note: Required texts are stocked by and can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop online or on campus. The library also holds copies of all required texts on reserve.</p>

<p><b>Recommended texts:</b></p>	<p>Ashcroft, Bill, Griffiths, Gareth, Tiffin, Helen. <i>Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies</i>. London &amp; New York: Routledge, 2000</p> <p>Gandhi, Leela. <i>Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction</i>. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1998</p> <p>Loomba, Ania. <i>Colonialism/Postcolonialism</i>. London &amp; New York: Routledge, 1998</p> <p>McLeod, John, <i>Beginning Postcolonialism</i>. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2000</p>
<p><b>Timetable:</b></p>	<p>The timetable for this unit can be viewed online at: <a href="http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/coursesenrolment/timetable/">http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/coursesenrolment/timetable/</a></p>
<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p>1,500-word essay due Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August (30%)</p> <p>1,500-word essay due Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October (30%)</p> <p>2-hour examination (40%)</p>

**LECTURE / SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

<b>Week &amp; Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
14, 15/7	Introduction to Postcolonialism	No tutorials	Katherine Bode
15, 22/7	Australian historical and cultural context and David Malouf, <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	<i>Remembering Babylon</i>	Katherine Bode
16, 29/7	David Malouf, <i>Remembering Babylon</i>	<i>Remembering Babylon</i>	Katherine Bode
17, 15/8	<i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i> (screening on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August)	<i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i>	Katherine Bode
18, 12/8	Indigenous Australian poetry	Indigenous Australian Poetry	Katherine Bode
19, 19/8	<i>Mimi</i> , short film (screened at the beginning of the lecture)	<i>Mimi</i>	Pauline Marsh
20, 26/8	Janette Turner Hospital, short stories  First essay due, Monday 24/8	Janette Turner Hospital short stories	Katherine Bode
<b>Mid-semester break: 31 August – 6 September 2009</b>			
21, 9/9	South African historical and cultural context and Nadine Gordimer, <i>July's People</i>	<i>July's People</i>	Katherine Bode

22, 16/9	Nadine Gordimer, <i>July's People</i>	<i>July's People</i>	Katherine Bode
23, 23/9	Bessie Head, short stories	Bessie Head short stories	Katherine Bode
24, 30/9	<i>Red Dust</i> (screening on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September)	<i>Red Dust</i>	Katherine Bode
25, 7/10	South African poetry Second essay due, Monday 5/10	South African poetry	Katherine Bode
26, 14/10	Zakes Mda, <i>Ways of Dying</i>	<i>Ways of Dying</i>	Katherine Bode
<b>Study period: 19 – 23 October 2009</b>			
<b>Examination period: 24 October – 10 November 2009</b>			

## ASSESSMENT

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1,500 word essay	24 <sup>th</sup> August 5pm	30%
1,500 word essay	5 <sup>th</sup> October 5pm	30%
2-hour exam	Exam period	40%

<b>Assessment task 1—Research essay</b>	
<b>Task length</b>	1,500 words
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This task links to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4b
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<p>Your essay should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively address the essay question</li> <li>• Construct a coherent argument, supported by evidence from the text</li> <li>• Critically analyse the text with reference to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The historical and cultural context in which it was produced</li> <li>b. Theoretical and critical perspectives in postcolonialism</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Communicate ideas in the form of a written essay using:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A logical and appropriate essay structure</li> <li>b. Clear expression</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>c. Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling</li><li>d. Referencing that conforms to MLA style</li></ul>
<b>Submission instructions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy <b>AND</b> electronically. See the “Important Information” section at the end of this Unit Outline for instructions on submitting the hard copy.</li><li>• Assignments must be submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission. Essays which are not submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission will not be marked.</li><li>• You are required to submit assignments electronically using the MyLO site “HEA232 Postcolonial Fiction.” To submit an assignment, click on the “Turnitin Submission” folder located on the unit home-page, then on the icon named “Research Essay 1” which will connect you to the Turnitin service and step you through submitting your assignment.</li></ul> <p>Turnitin is one of the tools used by the University of Tasmania to help staff and students manage issues related to academic integrity. For further information see <a href="http://www.utas.edu.au/turnitin/students/">http://www.utas.edu.au/turnitin/students/</a>.</p>

<b>Assessment task 2—Research essay</b>	
<b>Task length</b>	1,500 words
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This task links to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4b
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<p>Your essay should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively address the essay question</li> <li>• Construct a coherent argument, supported by evidence from the text</li> <li>• Critically analyse the text with reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The historical and cultural context in which it was produced</li> <li>b. Theoretical and critical perspectives in postcolonialism</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communicate ideas in the form of a written essay using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A logical and appropriate essay structure</li> <li>b. Clear expression</li> <li>c. Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling</li> <li>d. Referencing that conforms to MLA style</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Submission instructions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy <b>AND</b> electronically. See the “Important Information” section at the end of this Unit Outline for instructions on submitting the hard copy.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments must be submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission. Essays which are not submitted electronically within one week of hard copy submission will not be marked.</li> <li>• You are required to submit assignments electronically using the MyLO site “HEA232 Postcolonial Fiction.” To submit an assignment, click on the “Turnitin Submission” folder located on the unit home-page, then on the icon named “Research Essay 2” which will connect you to the Turnitin service and step you through submitting your assignment.</li> </ul> <p>Turnitin is one of the tools used by the University of Tasmania to help staff and students manage issues related to academic integrity. For further information see <a href="http://www.utas.edu.au/turnitin/students/">http://www.utas.edu.au/turnitin/students/</a>.</p>
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<b>Assessment task 3—Exam</b>	
<b>Task length</b>	2 hours
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This task links to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4c
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<p>Responses to the exam questions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively address the exam question</li> <li>• Critically analyse set texts with reference to the historical and cultural</li> </ul>

	<p>contexts in which they were produced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate awareness and understanding of themes and theories in postcolonialism</li><li>• Communicate through exam essays using logical and appropriate structure and clear written expression</li></ul>
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## School of English, Journalism and European Languages IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, 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 should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

### Late assignments

#### Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

#### Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

#### Honours and postgraduate research project units (400 and 700 level)

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

**Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.**

### **Return of marked 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. In some cases, particularly where an assignment is the final, exam equivalent piece of assessment, the marked assignment may not be returned until after final unit results have been released.

### **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.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>. 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.

### **Referencing**

The English, French and German disciplines and the Screen Studies major use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

## Marking scale

### Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

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%

### Honours

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.

## Equipment loans

Please note that some units taught in the school may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment. Although access to equipment may be provided during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan.

## 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 Student Services staff as soon as possible. Please see <http://www.studentservices.utas.edu.au> for more information about the support services available to students.

## IT support

MyLO: <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

IT help desk: <http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>