

# EN3C4-30 Studies in Postcolonial Literature

**24/25**

**Department**

English and Comparative Literary Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Michael Niblett

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

EN3C4-30 Studies in Postcolonial Literature

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

Writers from the Anglophone 'postcolonial' world today confront a (prospectively) global audience. This module aims to introduce students to the contemporary body of literature being produced by writers (and film-makers) from, e.g., Africa, the Caribbean, and South Asia, and to situate it in terms of the historical circumstances that have engendered it and to which it constitutes a response. The module will examine the various ways in which different writers negotiate and represent social conditions -- local and global -- in their work, and the ways in which they incorporate and work with domestic and foreign literary forms and conventions. The works will be read comparatively, in relation to one another, and as contributions to particular literary and cultural traditions. Social issues under review will range very widely: for example, race, violence, religion and communalism, land, 'development' and the environment, sex and gendered identity, nation and state, memory, trauma and prolepsis, and cultural/linguistic imperialism.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Syllabus for Term 1:

Week One: Introduction to the Module

Week Two: Olive Senior, Gardening in the Tropics

Week Three: Erna Brodber, Myal

Week Four: Dionne Brand, Inventory

Week Five: Nalo Hopkinson, The Salt Roads

Week Six: No class. Reading Week

Week Seven: Nicole Dennis-Benn, Here Comes the Sun

Week Eight: Raquel Salas Rivera, Before Island is Volcano

Week Nine: Xavier Navarro Aquino, Velorio

Week Ten: Reclaim, Restore, Return: Futurist Tales from the Caribbean

Syllabus for Term 2: Sub-Saharan Africa

Week One: J M Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians (1980)

Week Two: Ayi Kwei Armah, The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born (1968)

Week Three: Tsitsi Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions (1988)

Week Four: Nadine Gordimer, The House Gun (1998)

Week Five: Film: Tsotsi (dir. Gavin Hood, 2005)

THE FILM WILL BE SCREENED ON WEDNESDAY, FEB 7 AT 7 PM IN H545.

Week Six: No class. Reading Week

Week Seven: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Half of a Yellow Sun (2006)

Week Eight: Mia Couto, Confession of the Lioness (2012)

Week Nine: Film (screening to be arranged): Moolaadé (dir. Ousmane Sembene, 2004)

Week Ten: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, A Grain of Wheat (1967)

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Familiarity with a wide range of Anglophone writing that has emerged after decolonization.
- Familiarity with basic concepts and methods of post-colonial studies.
- Acquire knowledge of key theoretical, literary, cultural and critical contexts within which to situate the set texts.
- Develop analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts.
- Adjust to scholarly standards and protocols of academic presentation.

## Indicative reading list

Aaron Kamugisha. Ed. Caribbean Political Thought: The Colonial State to Caribbean Internationalisms. Ian Randle, 2013.

———. Ed. Caribbean Political Thought: Theories of the Postcolonial State. Ian Randle, 2013

Aaron Kamugisha and Yanique Hume. Eds. Caribbean Cultural Thought: From Plantation to

Diaspora. Ian Randle, 2013.

Lovelace, Earl. *Growing in the Dark: Selected Essays*. Ed. Funso Aiyejina. San Juan, Trinidad and Tobago: Lexicon, 2003.

Puri, Shalini. *Caribbean Postcolonial*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

Watts, David. *The West Indies: Patterns of Development, Culture and Environmental Change since 1492*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Ulka Anjaria, ed. *A History of the Indian Novel in English* (Cambridge UP, 2015)

-----, *Realism in the Twentieth-Century Indian Novel: Colonial Difference and Literary Form* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Deepika Bahri, *Native Intelligence: Aesthetics, Politics, and Postcolonial Literature* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota P., 2003)

Mrinalini Chakravorty, *In Stereotype: South Asia in the Global Literary Imaginary* (Columbia University Press, 2014)

Toral Jatin Gajjarawala, *Untouchable Fictions: Literary Realism and the Crisis of Caste* (Fordham University Press, 2012)

Ghosh, Bishnupriya, *When Borne Across: Literary Cosmopolitics in the Contemporary Indian Novel* (New Brunswick and London: Rutgers University Press, 2004)

Gopal, Priyamvada. *The Indian English Novel: Nation, History, and Narration* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

Priya Joshi, *In Another Country: Colonialism, Culture and the English Novel in India* (Columbia University Press, 2002)

Tabish Khair, *Babu Fictions: Alienation in Indian English Novels* (Oxford University Press, 2001)

Satya P. Mohanty, ed. *Colonialism, Modernity, Literature: A View from India* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

Meenakshi Mukherjee, *The Perishable Empire: Essays on Indian Writing in English* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000)

Upamanyu Pablo Mukherjee, *Postcolonial Environment: Nature, Culture and the Contemporary Indian Novel in English* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

Rashmi Sadana, *English Heart, Hindi Heartland: The Political Life of Literature in India* (University of California Press, 2012)

Snehal Shinghavi, *The Mahatma Misunderstood: The Politics and Forms of Literary Nationalism in India* (Anthem, 2013)

Anis Shivani, "Indo-Anglian Fiction: The New Orientalism". *Race and Class* 47, 4 (2006)

E. Dawson Varughese, *Reading New India: Post-Millennial Indian Fiction in English* (Bloomsbury, 2014)

Africa

Chinua Achebe, *Morning Yet on Creation day* (Heinemann, 1977)

Chidi Amuta, *The Theory of African Literature: Implications for Practical Criticism* (Zed, 1989)

Jean-Francois Bayart, *The State in Africa: Politics of the Belly* (Longman, 1993)

Aquino de Braganca and Immanuel Wallerstein eds., *The African Liberation Reader*, 3vols (Zed, n.d.)

Basil Davidson, *Let Freedom Come: Africa in Modern History* (Little Brown, 1978)

Neil Lazarus, *Resistance in Postcolonial African Fiction* (Yale, 1990)

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton UP, 1996)

Ali A. Mazrui ed., *Africa Since 1935. General History of Africa Vol.VIII* (James Currey, 1999)

Njabulo Ndebele, *Rediscovery of the Ordinary: Essays on South African Literature and Culture*

(COSAW, 1991)

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature

### **Subject specific skills**

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

### **Transferable skills**

No transferable skills defined for this module.

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## **Study**

### **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	264 hours (88%)
Total	300 hours

### **Private study description**

Reading & research

### **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## **Assessment**

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### **Assessment group A1**

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>
Assessed Essay 1 Based on Term 1 readings	50%	
Assessed essay 2 Based on Term 2 readings	50%	

## Feedback on assessment

Written comments; opportunity for further oral feedback in office hours.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- UPDA-Y304 Undergraduate English & Cultural Studies
  - Year 3 of Y304 English & Cultural Studies
  - Year 3 of Y304 English & Cultural Studies
- Year 3 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 3 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 4 of UENA-QP37 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UENA-Q301 Undergraduate English Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 4 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 4 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPDA-Y305 Undergraduate Humanities
- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
  - Year 3 of LA99 Liberal Arts
  - Year 3 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
  - Year 3 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
  - Year 3 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
  - Year 3 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
  - Year 3 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
  - Year 3 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
  - Year 3 of LA80 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
  - Year 3 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences

- Year 3 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
- Year 3 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
- Year 3 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies
- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- Available to all Finalist students on non-English Literature degree programmes – subject to availability and must have A level English Literature or equivalent qualification.
- MV21 LAW HUMS