

EN3C4-30 Studies in Postcolonial Literature

26/27

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Rashmi Varma

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
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.

Assessment

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

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Assessed Essay 1 Based on Term 1 readings	50%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Weighting Study time Eligible for self-certification

Assessment component

Assessed essay 2 50% Yes (extension)
Based on Term 2 readings

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

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

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- 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 3 of UCXA-QQ39 Undergraduate English and Classical Civilisation

This module is Optional for:

- 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 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 4 of UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year