ENGLISH – 580  3 CREDITS

RECONSTITUTING THE PAST IN AFRICAN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

W 7:00-9:45 – UC XXX

Instructor Info:

Dr. Douglas Eli Julien
Office: UC 219
Email: Doug.Julien@tamut.edu
Phone: 930-334-6662

Office Hours: Mondays: 11:00-12:00 & 6:00-7:00
Wednesdays: 11:00-12:00
And by appointment

Tuesdays: 10:00-11:00 & 12:30-4:30
Thursdays: 10:00-11:00 & 6:00-7:00

Course Description:
Study of postcolonial literature of Africa in its cultural, political, and historical context. Critical examination of the postcolonial condition (past and present) including colonial constructions of knowledge and power and anti-colonial struggles against subordination. Draws on various disciplines (literature, history, cultural studies, sociology, psychology and postcolonial theory) to trace cultural and political imperatives of negotiating the past. Requires graduate standing.

Required Texts:

Abrahams, Peter. *The View from Coyaba* (Faber & Faber, 1985) ISBN 978-0571132898 Retail $20.00

A course packet is also required and available for purchase in the bookstore
**Student Learner Outcomes:**
Students who successfully complete English 580 will

1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in literature.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works of literature.
4. To comprehend the physical and intellectual demands of the author or visual or performing artist.
5. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works of literature.
6. To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern literature.
7. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature on intercultural experiences.

**Course Outline:**

**Major Topics**

1. Egypt, Nasser, and the Suez via Naguib Mahfouz
2. The Battle of Algiers and Subaltern Speech via Assia Djebar
3. The Biafran War and Media Coverage via Buchi Emecheta
4. Writing Back against Literary Presentations of Africa via Tayeb Salih
5. Apartheid and Mining Culture in South Africa via Peter Abrahams
6. Mau Mau and the Role of Peasant Intellectuals via Ngugi wa Thiong’o
7. Pan-African Education in Ghana via Ama Ata Aidoo
8. The Diaspora via Peter Abrahams

**Delivery and Assessment Methods:**

**Delivery**

1. Class seminars

**Assessment**

1. Participation in class sessions
2. Leading class discussion of to essays from the course packet
3. Final publishable quality essay

**Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Participation in class sessions
   A. Students are expected to have read completely and critically for the class session and participate in the discussion. This is not a lecture class; it is a discussion. (SLO – 1,2, 3,4,5,6,7)
   B. Participation is worth 200 points.
2. Leading class discussion of two essays from the course packet.
   A. Over the course of the semester, students will identify two essays from the course packet that they will lead the discussion on for at least 20 minutes. Students will email the instructor with requests for individual texts and which texts go to which students will be on a first come, first served basis (SLO – 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
   B. Each discussion is worth 150 points for a total of 300 points.

   A. Students will be required to produce a final text discussing one of the major topics. This is to be of publishable quality, significantly researched, 20+ pages, and students are strongly encouraged to submit it to a journal or a conference. (SLO 1,2,3,4,5)
   B. The essay is worth 500 points

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90% – 100% (900 – 1000 pts.)
B = 80% – 89% (800 – 899 pts.)
C= 70% -- 79% (700 – 799 pts.)
D = 60% -- 69% (600 – 699 pts.)
F = 0% -- 59% ( 0 -- 599 pts.)

**Complete Course Schedule:**

**Week #1: Egypt**

1/19 – Edward Said selections from *Orientalism* COURSE PACKET
Keith Kyle selections from *Suez* COURSE PACKET
Douglas Boyd selections from *Broadcasting in the Arab World* COURSE PACKET

**Week #2: Mahfouz**

1/26 – Naguib Mahfouz *Miramar*
Homi Bhabha “Dissemination” COURSE PACKET

**Week #3: Algeria**

2/2 – Frantz Fanon selections from *A Dying Colonialism* COURSE PACKET
Frantz Fanon selections from *The Wretched of the Earth* COURSE PACKET
Albert Memmi selections from *The Colonizer and the Colonized* COURSE PACKET
Selections from the film The Battle of Algiers

**Week #4 : Djebar**

2/9 – Assia Djebar *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade*
   Gayatri Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak? COURSE PACKET
**Week #5: Nigeria**
2/16 – Frederick Forsyth selections from *The Biafra Story: The Making of an African Legend*
   COURSE PACKET
   Major media reports on Biafra COURSE PACKET
   Frederic Jameson “Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism” COURSE PACKET
   Aijaz Ahmad Jameson’s *Rhetoric of Otherness and the “National Allegory”* COURSE PACKET

**Week #6: Emecheta**
2/23 – Buchi Emecheta *Destination Biafra*
   Trinh T. Minh-ha selections from *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism* COURSE PACKET

**Week #7: Sudan**
3/2 – Joseph Conrad *Heart of Darkness*
   William Shakespeare *Othello*
   David Eggers selections from *What is the What* COURSE PACKET

**Week #8: Salih**
3/9 – Tayeb Salih *Season of Migration to the North*
   Helen Tiffin “Post-colonial Literatures and Counter-discourse” COURSE PACKET

**Week #9: South Africa**
3/16 – Roger Beck selections from *The History of South Africa* COURSE PACKET
   Jenny Sharpe *Figures of Colonial Resistance* COURSE PACKET
   Partha Chatterjee selections from *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse* COURSE PACKET

**Week #10: Abrahams**
3/23 – Peter Abrahams *Mine Boy*
   Chinua Achebe selections from *Hopes and Impediments: Selected Essays 1965-1987* COURSE PACKET

**Week #11: Kenya**
3/30 – Wunyarbari Maloba selections from *Mau Mau and Kenya: an analysis of peasant revolt* COURSE PACKET
   Steven Feireman selections from *Peasant Intellectuals: anthropolgy and history in Tanzania* COURSE PACKET
   Jonathon Glassman selections from *Feasts and Riots: revelry, rebellion, and popular consciousness on the Swahili Coast, 1856-1888* COURSE PACKET
Week #12: Ngugi
4/6 – Ngugi wa Thiong’o Petals of Blood
Ngugi wa Thiong’o selections from Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literatures COURSE PACKET

Week #13: Ghana
4/13 – Kwame Nkrumah selections from I Speak of Freedom COURSE PACKET
Homi Bhabha The Commitment to Theory COURSE PACKET
Franz Fanon selections from Black Skins, White Masks COURSE PACKET

Week #14: Aidoo
4/20 – Ama Ata Aidoo Our Sister Killjoy: Confessions of a Black-eyed Squint
Chandra Talpade Mohanty Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses COURSE PACKET

Week #15: The Diaspora and the World
4/27 – W.E.B. DuBois selections from The Souls of Black Folks COURSE PACKET
Booker T. Washington selections from Up From Slavery COURSE PACKET
Marcus Garvey selections from The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey COURSE PACKET

Week #16: Abrahams Redux
5/4 Peter Abrahams The View From Coyaba
Essay Due

Student Participation:
This is an interactive course. Professional and courteous communication is always expected. There is no attendance policy for the course. My job is to teach you each class, make it interesting and vital to you whenever I can, and make coming to class, at the very least, seem necessary. Your job is to come or keep up when unable. Three caveats. The first caveat I would add is that I will work as hard as I possibly can to make sure that if you’re not attending class regularly, it will be very difficult to do well—that is also my job. The second is that I’m not interested in trying to repeat a day, week, or month of what happened in my office—class is unrepeatable. The final caveat is that there is a participation component to your grade, and it is difficult to participate if you are not here

Disability Accommodations:
Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Integrity:
Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

**Statement on email usage:**

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.