

English 3365
Postcolonial Literature
Hosam Aboul-Ela

Course Goals: The most general goals of this course are to improve our ability to think critically and write clearly and to improve our understanding of the complicated relationship between history, politics, and economics on the one hand, and literature or culture on the other. This second question will be addressed through considering the history of colonialism, with its decisive role in the literatures of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. We will examine colonialism primarily through the study of the novel as a literary genre in the world. Through the three distinct units of the course, we will examine the recurring deep structure of histories in the various regions that were colonized by Europe and consider how history affected culture, especially literary culture, in these areas. The course will also ask what relationship these postcolonial literatures have with their respective pre-colonial literary traditions, how postcolonial literary form compares and contrasts with European literatures, and how gender is constructed in a postcolonial context.

Requirements: Students will write two short papers and a medium length final paper. They will also need to pass a series of pop quizzes. There will be at least 7 quizzes given over the course of the semester at the beginning of class. Quizzes cannot be made up, but the 2 worst quiz grades will be dropped before your average is calculated.

Required Texts:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
Anita Desai, *In Custody*.
Duong Thu Huong. *Paradise of the Blind*.
Ibrahim, Sonallah. *Stealth*.
Kincaid, Jamaica. *Lucy*.
Rao, Raja. *Kanthapura*.
Said, Edward. *The Edward Said Reader*.
Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. *This Earth of Mankind*.