**Winter 2012**

**130**. **Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures**

130               T/Th 12.00-1.50 PM                            ROLFE 3134

Professor: **Yogita Goyal**

Office hours: Thursday 9.30-11.30

Office: Humanities Bldg. 228

Office Phone: 310-825-4820

E-mail: ygoyal@humnet.ucla.edu

Teaching Assistants

**Sydney Miller** (sydneymiller@ucla.edu)

**Joyce Warren** (jlwarren@ucla.edu)

**Course Description**:

This course serves as an introduction to modern postcolonial literature and theory. Reading novels, short stories, and essays from postcolonial Africa, India, the Caribbean, and Britain, we examine the relationship between nationalism, migration, and literary form, tracking the shift from realism to postmodernism and magic realism. How do contemporary writers decolonize the mind? In a rapidly globalizing world, what place do national identities have, if any? How do we define ‘traditional’ and ‘modern’ in a time of fluid identities? How are these ideas of tradition gendered and why? We will also look at how postcolonial texts circulate in the West, as exotic commodities, or as sites of resistance, and explore how they challenge reductive discourses of the clash of civilizations and new forms of colonialism and racism.

**Texts**:

1. Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (1956)
2. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958)
3. Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy* (1977)
4. Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (1988)
5. Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* (1988)
6. Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1990)
7. Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (2008)

**Films**:

1. Stephanie Black, *Life and Debt (*2001)
2. Stephen Frears, *Dirty Pretty Things* (2002)

**Additional readings:**

Available on the CCLE website: <http://ccle.ucla.edu/>

**Assignments:**

Paper 1, 6-8 pp. 30% of grade

Paper 2, 6-8 pp. 35% of grade

Attendance and Class Participation 10% of grade

Final Exam 25% of grade

**Academic Integrity**:

UCLA has no tolerance for academic dishonesty of any kind. Please acquaint yourself with the university policies on plagiarism.

Please see the web site: http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/integrity.html.

Basically, any time that you use someone else’s ideas or words, you have to say so – otherwise it constitutes plagiarism. If you have any doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism, be sure to consult your TAs before completing the assignment.

**Disability Accommodation:**

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to make the required arrangements.

**Classroom Policies:**

* Attendance is mandatory and any absences will affect your final grade. All deadlines are final.
* If you miss any class meeting (discussion or lecture), it is your responsibility to make up the missed work.
* If you need an extension for a medical reason, contact your TA at least three days before the deadline. Late papers will lose a grade point for each day past the due date. Papers handed in a week late will receive an F and will be returned without comments. Unexplained absences will result in an F.
* All grades are final, and are not subject to re-writes or negotiation.
* All announcements relating to the course will only be made in class, and will not be available on the web. You will find it very difficult to pass your exam if you skip class.
* Come to each class meeting having done the assigned reading for the day. Mark places in the text (with page numbers) that you find interesting or difficult, and would like discussed further. Be prepared to ask and respond to questions about the reading.
* Come to class on time. If you are habitually late by over ten minutes, it will be counted as an absence. I will pass around a sign-in sheet to document your attendance.
* Laptop users must sit in the first two rows and use the laptop only as a note-taking machine, not to surf the internet. Turn off all cell phones.
* Check your registered email with myUCLA regularly for updates and announcements.

**SCHEDULE**

Week One

January 10: Introduction

January 12: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* [Part One: 1-125]

Binyavanga Wainana, “How to Write about Africa”\*

Week Two

January 17: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* [Part Two: 129-209]

January 19: W.B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”\*

Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa”\*

Simon Gikandi, “Chinua Achebe and the Invention of African Culture”\*

Interview with Chinua Achebe\*

Week Three

January 24: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* [Ch. 1-6: 1-119]

January 26: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* [Ch. 7-10: 120-204]

Ngugi wa Thiong’o, “Quest for Relevance”\*

Week Four

January 31: Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*

February 2: Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*

Edward Brathwaite, “Nation language”\*

David Dabydeen, “On Not Being Milton”\*

John Agard, “Listen Mr Oxford Don”\*

**PAPER 1 DUE**

February 2

Week Five

February 7: Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*

February 9: Ama Ata Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*

Binyavanga Wainana, “How to Write about Africa” Part II\*

William Easterly, “How to Write about Poor People”\*

Week Six

February 14: Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* [“Going Away”]

February 16: Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* [“Coming Home”]

Amitav Ghosh, “The Ghosts of Mrs. Gandhi”\*

Week Seven

February 21: Film Screening: Stephen Frears, *Dirty Pretty Things*

February 23: Stephen Frears, *Dirty Pretty Things*

Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora”\*

Week Eight

February 28: Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* [Ch. 1-7: 15-126]

March 1: Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* [Ch. 8-12: 129-211]

Hamid et al, “How to Write about Pakistan”\*

**PAPER 2 DUE**

March 1

Week Nine

March 6: Film screening: Stephanie Black, *Life and Debt*

March 8: Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations”\*

Edward Said, “The Clash of Ignorance”\*

“I am African” ad campaign\*

Week Ten

March 13: Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* [1-145]

March 15: Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* [147-276]

Aravind Adiga, “How English Literature Shaped Me”\*

Aravind Adiga, “The Cry of the White Tiger”\*

**FINAL EXAM**

March 20, 11.30-2.30