

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

English 491-01

Fall 2018

**Advanced Studies in Global Literature**

Instructor: Dr. Shaobo Xie  
Class time: TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm  
Location: ES 054  
Office: SS 1012  
Office hours: Wed. 3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Telephone: 403-220-5478  
Email: [sxie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sxie@ucalgary.ca)

**Course Objectives:**

To study global literature is to open up to geographical, cultural, and racial/ethnic Others, to express a self-enriching readiness to appreciate the Other in the self and the self in the Other, to break out of various forms of ethnocentrism, especially euro- or west-centrism, and to challenge ideological biases and boundaries that separate and alienate culture from culture and people from people. Students in this course will be exploring how the representations of the cultural/racial/ethnic Other in the novels they read challenge, question, and deconstruct eurocentric or (neo)primitivist conceptions of the non-western or indigenous subaltern, situating these literary representations in the moment of empire writing back. Students will also investigate how English literature produced by people from the geopolitical periphery decenters, revises, and enriches the canon of English literature established in the metropolitan center.

The course format will be a mixture of lectures, class conversations, group discussions and presentations, and D2L online discussion. Each group will present a critical reading of one of the novels included in the course syllabus. The presentation will take 50 minutes and leave 25 minutes for response from the rest of the class. Everyone will be expected to actively participate in D2L discussion. You will write a research paper of 3000 words. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. To ensure that you will be on the right track, you should submit an essay proposal electronically two weeks prior to the due date.

**Texts:**

Ama Ata Aidoo, *Changes: A Love Story*

J. M. Coetzee, *Slow Man*

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise English-Chinese Dictionary for Lovers*

Edward Said, *Representations of the Intellectual*  
Homi Bhabha, "Commitment to Theory"  
Robert Young, *Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction*

**Keywords:**

*culture, race, ethnicity, discourse, ideology, class, eurocentrism, imperialism, colonialism, globalization, decolonization, diaspora, eurocentrism, hybrid, in-between, hegemony, counterhegemonic, narrative, subject (position), grand narrative, power, orientalism, (neo)primitivism, postcolonialism, cultural/ethnic Other, Othering, universalism, particularism, modernity, premodern, modern, postmodern, representation, perspective, canon, deconstruction*

**Assignments:**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Critical essay        | 40% |
| Online discussion     | 20% |
| Class participation   | 10% |
| Group presentation    | 10% |
| Take-home examination | 20% |

The group work grade is designed to encourage students to take group work seriously. All members of a group will receive the same grade, except for students absent when the group work assignment is prepared or presented, who will receive an F.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

Except in cases of illness or crisis, late papers will be penalized a fraction of a grade per day (i.e., a B paper handed in a day late will receive a B-; a B paper handed in two days late will receive a C+).

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities, interaction with classmates, and contribution to advancing debate in the classroom.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material, essay assignments, or group projects, you need to make an appointment to see me during my office hour.

All cell phones must be turned off during classes. Students are permitted to use laptop computers only to take notes or for class presentations.

**Grading System:**

| Letter Grade | Percentage   | Grade Point Value |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| A+           | 96% or above | 4.0               |
| A            | 90-95%       | 4.0               |
| A-           | 85-89%       | 3.7               |
| B+           | 80-84%       | 3.3               |
| B            | 75-79%       | 3.0               |
| B-           | 70-74%       | 2.7               |
| C+           | 67-69%       | 2.3               |
| C            | 64-66%       | 2.0               |
| C-           | 60-63%       | 1.7               |
| D+           | 55-59%       | 1.3               |
| D            | 50-54%       | 1.0               |
| F            | 0-49%        | 0                 |

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events <http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also

posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboyd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyd@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferral of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

**Student Accommodations:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with

Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

“Safewalk” Program:  
Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:  
Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:  
[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):  
"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
  - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>

"The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and

working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.