ENGL 128: Readings in Comparative World English Literatures
Professor Priyasha Mukhopadhyay (Session A)
MW 1-4.15pm
Office Hours: LC 409, M 10.30am-12.30pm and by appointment

Brief Course Description

An introduction to the literary traditions of the Anglophone world in a variety of narrative forms and historical contexts. Emphasis on developing skills of literary interpretation and critical writing; on diverse linguistic, cultural, and racial histories; and on the politics of empire and liberation struggles. Authors may include Mary Prince, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Jamaica Kincaid, Arundhati Roy, among others.

Key Texts with ISBNs for recommended editions

Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave* (1831) (Penguin Classics) 9780140437492 $15.00

Total cost for these editions bought new: $76.95

Other readings, marked (C), will be uploaded to Canvas: look up the modules for each week for the readings.

This syllabus lists primary texts: secondary texts/critical essays may be uploaded to the relevant modules.

Assignments

All deadlines are 5pm, unless stated otherwise
All assignments should be submitted via Canvas and conform to the MLA format: <https://style.mla.org/formatting-papers/>

Close Reading Paper (3-4 pages): 20%*
DUE FRIDAY of WEEK 2
Close reading assignment from any of the texts discussed in class till date. Prompts will be distributed two weeks in advance.

Museum Object Paper (3-4 pages): 20%*
DUE FRIDAY of WEEK 4
Short research paper that should involve reading a primary text alongside an item in the Yale Art Museum. Ideas will be discussed and workshopped in class.

* you have the option to rewrite one of these papers

Final Paper essay (8-10 pages): 40%
PAPER DUE FRIDAY of WEEK 5

Research paper on a topic of your choice. You could write about a text we’ve already discussed in class, other works by writers we have studied, or any other ‘World Anglophone’ literary text outside the syllabus. Be creative! Read literary texts in dialogue with photographs, film, bureaucratic
documents, and paintings. Your essay should combine primary and secondary sources – please consult the additional readings assigned and speak to me about any others that might be useful for your essay topic. You will develop your paper topics in discussion with me: a short one-paragraph proposal is due on SUNDAY of Week 3, after which I will meet you 1:1 to come up with a research plan.

**Class participation**: 20%

This is a seminar and so student participation is imperative. All students are expected to come to class having read all the required material and prepared to discuss it. Take notes as you read and think about aspects of the text that you’d like to discuss in class. It may help to mark out passages/sections/lines that stood out to you during your preparation. Not doing the reading = being absent and will be reflected in your final grade.

**Writing**

I will give detailed feedback on your essays, in addition to which you will workshop your writing in class alongside your peers.

**Attendance and Late Papers**

Attending classes regularly and submitting assignments on time contribute to your final course grade. Repeatedly arriving late to class=being absent. If you cannot attend class for some unavoidable reason (illness, family emergency, religious holidays), please inform me by email in advance. For every day a written assignment is late, you will be penalised half a letter grade (unless you have a dean’s excuse).

**Office Hours**

My office hours are **Monday, 10.30am to 12.30pm in Linsley-Chittenden Hall (LC 409)**. If you cannot meet me in this slot, please email me and I will be happy to set up an appointment with you. Office hours are not just to discuss your grades and assignments – feel free to stop by to talk about any aspect of the course or world anglophone literature in general.

**Electronics Policy**

Since many of the readings for this course are available to you as PDFs via Canvas, I will allow reading devices (IPads and laptops) in class ONLY to consult these texts, and NOT for the purpose of notetaking, checking your Facebook notifications, emails, or iMessages. Research shows that taking notes by hand is the best way to commit ideas to memory: bring a notebook and pen to class and see for yourself. If the presence of screens in class hampers discussion and participation, I will revise this policy as I see fit. Make sure your cell phones are on silent (not on vibrate mode) and that they are out of sight during the seminar. **Kindle editions not permitted.**

**Resource Office on Disabilities**

It is important to me that you get the most out of this seminar. To this end, if you have already established accommodations with the Resource Office on Disabilities, please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so that we can discuss your needs in this course. If your circumstances change during the semester, please get in touch with me, as well as the ROD, immediately.
**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. It includes copying from a book, essay, blog post, Wikipedia (yes!), and from other students. You **MUST** cite any texts, passages, ideas, that you draw on from others, whether these have been published or not.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**
Subject to change

*PAGE NUMBERS WILL BE POSTED TO CANVAS*

**Week 1**
Seminar 1 (May 25): Thomas Macaulay, “Minute on English Education in India” (1813) (C)
  Begin: Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave*

Seminar 2 (May 27): Finish: *The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave*  
  Visit to Beinecke Library Collections

**Week 2**
Seminar 3 (June 1): Begin: Jamaica Kincaid, *The Autobiography of My Mother*

Seminar 4 (June 3): Finish: *The Autobiography of My Mother*  
  Poems by M. NourbeSe Philip (C)

  **FRIDAY, JUNE 5: CLOSE READING PAPER DUE**

**Week 3**
Seminar 5 (June 8): Begin: Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *A Grain of Wheat*  
  Selections, Carolyn Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning* (C)

Seminar 6 (June 10): Finish: *A Grain of Wheat*  
  Visit Yale Art Gallery

  **SUNDAY, JUNE 14: PROPOSAL FOR FINAL PAPER DUE**

**Week 4**
Seminar 7 (June 15): Begin: Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*  
  Workshop Museum Paper ideas

Seminar 8 (June 17): Finish: *Nervous Conditions*  
  Short Stories by Chidamanda Adichie (C)

  **FRIDAY, JUNE 19: MUSEUM PAPER DUE**

**Week 5**
Seminar 9 (June 22): Begin: Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*  
Seminar 10 (June 24): Finish: *The God of Small Things*

  **FRIDAY, JUNE 26: FINAL PAPER DUE**