

ENGL 2110
World Literature
University of West Georgia



Semester: Spring 2018
Section: 01/MW 3:30-4:45
Location: Pafford 109
Professor: Dr. Shannon Finck

Email: sfinck@westga.edu
Office: TLC 1114D
Office Hours: Thursdays 10-5
Writing Studio Hours: MW 2-3 & 5-6

Course Description

This course surveys literature that describes the world as we know it. We will examine writing in English from a diverse selection of writers, cultures, and literary traditions. Throughout, our interest will be in what shapes our understanding of we often call “the modern world.” Such writing explores the intersections where our cultures meet, the conflicts that define our identities, and the boundaries that govern our relationships. This course does *not* pretend to represent all of literary history, nor does it attempt to sample literature from every literary culture. Instead, this course asks a specific question about how the world as we understand it today came in to being. Answering that question means exploring several overlapping topics: the logic of colonialism and domination that shapes modern experience; the dramas of translation and migration that inform post-colonial life; and the ongoing battle between our attachments to specific places and our connections to a global community.

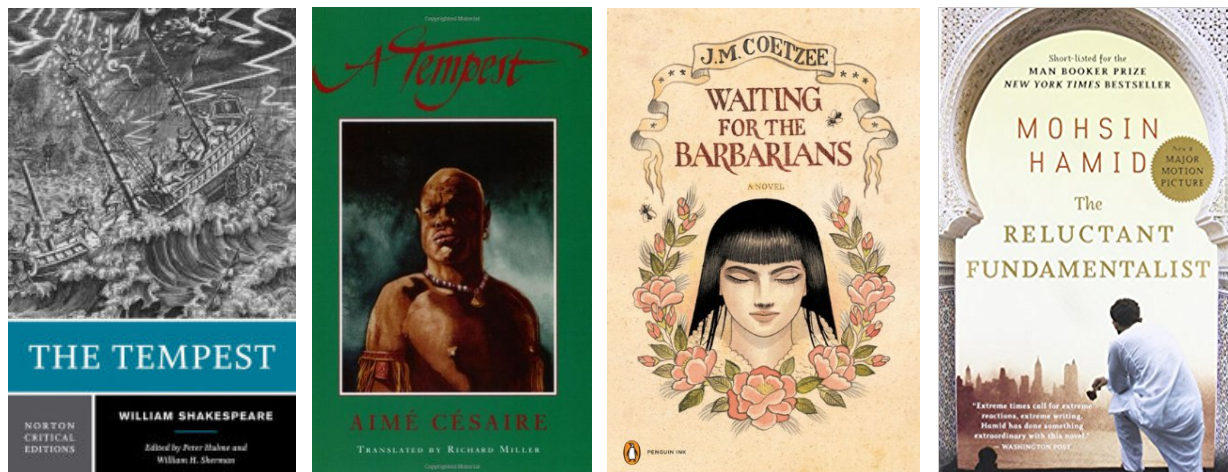
Our readings, conversations, and assignments will also develop a valuable skillset that enables us to be better observers, analysts, and writers. In what follows, those skills will help us raise challenging questions about where our sense of the world came from and how to make sense of our place within it.

You must have successfully passed ENGL 1101 in order to take ENGL 2110. Students who have not met this requirement will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Required Texts

The following volumes are available in the University Bookstore and must be purchased in these editions in advance of the dates they are listed on our course schedule:

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Norton, 2003)
Aimé Césaire, *A Tempest* (TGC Translations, 2002)
J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Penguin, 2010)
Moshin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (Harvest, 2008)



All other readings will be distributed in class as handouts or made available online. You must have a copy of each reading with you in class on the day it is scheduled for discussion. If you have trouble acquiring the readings, please let me know well in advance of our class discussions.

The Reading

The reading load for this course is not especially heavy, but some weeks will be more challenging than others. It will be important develop a regular habit for completing the reading on time and composing a response to the Weekly Writing prompt before Wednesday's class. If you find you are having trouble keeping up with the reading and meeting your deadlines, please come speak with me.

Writing and Grades

Essays: Each member of the course will compose and submit two short analytic essays on specific topics related to readings from our course. The first essay will explore the relationship between Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and one of the other readings from our course; the second essay will include an original argument related to a topic that has emerged from our

conversations. We will discuss each of these essay assignments in detail three weeks before each essay is due. I will be available to read drafts and brainstorm development of each essay with you.

Weekly Writing: Will also have short weekly writing assignments (300-500 words) designed to help develop our responses to the reading, stimulate our discussions, and develop material for the longer essays. Prompts for weekly writing assignments will be posted on Course Den and discussed in class every **Monday**; responses to those prompts should be posted on the site by the start of class each **Wednesday**. Students are also welcome to discuss these assignments in office hours. The form and content of weekly assignments will vary, but they will always be graded pass/fail.

Exams: We will also have two written exams, one at the midterm and one at end of the term, which will include both text IDs and short answer essays. Exams will be taken in class. We will discuss their content and format in detail as each of these exam periods approaches.

Class Participation: Regular attendance and participation in our class conversations will boost your grade. Because not everyone is comfortable speaking out loud in class, we will also count active participation in our online forum, where you can respond to your classmates' Weekly Writing posts and pose questions of your own, toward the participation grade. Your final grade will be based upon your marks on the two essays, exams, reading quizzes, and your success as a class participant.

Each of these requirements is weighted differently in the final grade:

<i>Essay 1</i> 15%	<i>Essay 2</i> 20%
<i>Midterm Exam</i> 20%	<i>Final Exam</i> 20%
<i>Weekly Writing</i> 15%	<i>Class Participation</i> 10%

Essay grades reflect your performance on the final draft of each assignment and will be reported to you with written comments. Your class participation grade reflects your attendance and punctuality, as well as your preparedness and willingness to contribute to class discussions.

Grading summary with the letter to numeric scale:	A+=98%; A=95%; A-=92%	B+=88%; B=85%; B-=82%
	C+=78%; C=75%; C-=72%	D+=68%; D=65%; D-=62%
		F=>50%

Submission of Work: All out-of-class essays should be submitted to me via the appropriate assignment folder in Course Den.

Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email. Please email only from your UWG account. Do not send messages through Course Den. Though I will often reply much sooner, please allow 24 hours for a response during the week (48 hours over

the weekend), before sending a follow-up email. Email is another opportunity to practice good writing techniques—always include a greeting and a closing with your name. Also, be sure to proofread for clarity, spelling, and grammar. Remember: well-written, courteous emails will get you far in life, and are MUCH more likely to receive prompt replies.

Attendance

The complexity and variety of the material we will be reading mean that our class discussions will be the backbone of the course. Because our group discussions are central, missing any class meetings (or any part of a class meeting) carries a special significance. **Students missing more than 3 class meetings should not expect an A in the course. Students who miss more than 6 class meetings, regardless of the reason, maybe be given a failing grade for the course.** It is always helpful, when possible, to give advance notice if you are going to miss class.

Everyone is expected to arrive prepared and ready to both listen and contribute. Text-messaging, personal use of social media, sleeping, and otherwise disrupting the discussion are unacceptable. Any of these behaviors will result in your dismissal from the classroom. You may eat and drink in class, but be cool about it.

Late Work

Late essays will be penalized for each day that passes after the deadline. Weekly Writing assignments cannot be made up once the deadline (start of class each Wednesday) has passed, but late contributions to our online discussion in the form of comments on others' posts can be counted toward your participation grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is always unacceptable. Violations of the academic honesty rules—see the University's policy on Academic Honesty (<http://www.westga.edu/handbook/>)—are **grounds for receiving an "F" in the course**. If you are unclear about that policy or what counts as plagiarism, please come and talk with me any time.

Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make these known to me, either yourself or through Disability Services in 272 Parker Hall.

Americans with Disabilities Act – Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Disability Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please notify your instructor in writing by the end of the second full week of class and include a copy of your Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Disability Services. Students are entitled to accommodations if they deliver the SAR to the instructor no later than the end of the second full week of class.

Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. This is not only my personal commitment: it is your right, and it is the law!

For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia.

The Writing Center

TLC 1201 678-839-6513
Writing@westga.edu www.westga.edu/writing

The University Writing Center works with students and other members of the UWG community to improve writing skills.

What We Do:

- Discuss ideas, read drafts, and work through revisions of essays; we do not proofread
- MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian, and other citation formats

Policies:

- Please make appointments in advance. We accept walk-ins, but we cannot guarantee that a tutor will be available.
- If you cannot keep your appointment, you must call or email us 24 hours in advance to cancel. If you do not notify us 24 hours in advance, you will be counted as a No Show.
- Please arrive at your appointment on time. If you are 10 minutes late or more, you will be counted as a No Show and will not be able to have your appointment.
- If you have 3 No Shows in one semester, you will not be able to have any more appointments for that semester.

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:00am-7:00pm
Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
Friday 10:00am-1:00pm



Class Schedule

This schedule provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Readings will be discussed on the day they are listed, so you should arrive with the text in hand and something to say.

Week 1	M1/8: Syllabus overview	W1/10: Jean Rhys, "The Day They Burned the Books" (on Course Den)
Week 2	M1/15: MLK Holiday	W1/17: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, "Goodbye Africa" (on Course Den)
Week 3	M1/22: William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (Act 1)	W1/24: William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (Act 2)
Week 4	M1/29: William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (Act 3)	W1/31: William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (Acts 4-5)
Week 5	M2/5: Aimé Césaire, <i>A Tempest</i> (Prologue, Act 1)	W2/7: Aimé Césaire, <i>A Tempest</i> (Acts 2-3)
Week 6	M2/12: Nadine Gordimer, "Town and Country Lovers" & "Is There Nowhere Else Where We Can Meet?" (on Course Den)	W2/14: Chinua Achebe, "Chike's School Days" & "Girls at War" (on Course Den)
Week 7	M2/19: Sharon May, "The Wizard of Khao-I-Dang" (on Course Den)	W2/21: Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies" (on Course Den) F2/23: Essay 1 due
Week 8	M2/26: Midterm Exam	W2/28: Jean Arasanayagam, "I Have No Country"; Derek Walcott, selected poems (on Course Den)
Week 9	M3/5: Edward Said, excerpt from <i>Orientalism</i> ; V. S. Naipaul, "B. Wordsworth," "Jasmine" (on Course Den)	W3/7: Rohinton Mistry, "Swimming Lessons"; Caryl Phillips, "The 'High Anxiety' of Belonging" (on Course Den)
Week 10	M3/12: Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild" (on Course Den)	W3/14: Nalo Hopkinson, "A Habit of Waste" (on Course Den)
Week 11	M3/19: Spring Break	W3/21: Spring Break

Week 12	M3/26: Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden Party"; Witi Ihimaera, "This Life is Weary" (on Course Den)	W3/28: J. M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>
Week 13	M4/2: J. M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>	W4/4: J. M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>
Week 14	M4/9: Essay Workshop	W4/11: Essay Workshop
Week 15	M4/16: Moshin Hamid, <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i>	W4/18: Moshin Hamid, <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i>
Week 16	M4/23: Moshin Hamid, <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i>	W4/25: Han Kan, "The Fruit of My Woman" (<i>Granta</i> , https://granta.com/the-fruit-of-my-woman/) F4/27: Essay 2 due
Week 17	M4/30: Final Exam	Exam Period: W5/2, 2-4 PM The final exam in this class is non-cumulative, so we will take it on the last day of class instead of during the final exam period.