

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4410	Course Title: Modern and Contemporary Literatures	Date of Offering: <b>FALL 2018</b>
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Course Instructor: Elaine Chang	Course Format: Seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

More than strictly temporal designations, the terms “modern” and “contemporary” enact relational, dialogical, and at times highly contentious differences. This reading-intensive capstone seminar focuses on the Anglophone novel as a discursive form, and on the dialectics of tradition and modernity, through a series of encounters staged between (“high-canonical”) “modernist” prose fiction and what could be construed as “anti,” “post-,” and/or “neo-” rejoinders. Students will situate these pairings in creative and technical, critical and theoretical, and political-historical and social-cultural context. Topics and themes will include realism and linear narrative as well as their discontents; imperialist literature, anti-colonial resistance and postcolonial cultural production; the rise of the novel and intertextuality; voice, narrational technique, movement and migration, and creolization or hybridized language and form.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight: (subject to change)

Oral Presentation (20 minutes) based on a novel + 1 page follow-up paper: 20%  
Presentation Response (5%) & Final Essay Proposal/Annot. Bibl. (10%): 15%  
Short Paper/Discussion Notes based on selected critical/secondary or theoretical text: 15%  
Final Essay—approx. 4,500 words; incorporating independent research: 40%  
Participation—including peer feedback, prepared discussion contributions: 10%

#### Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

(subject to change): Novels: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*; Teju Cole, *Open City*; James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*; Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*; Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*; Dionne Brand, *What We All Long For*; Samuel Beckett, *The Unnamable*; Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*; George Lamming, *The Emigrants*; Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*; Madeleine Thien, *Certainty*.

Theory: works in narrative theory, modernist/postmodernist aesthetics, postcolonial and feminist theory through Ares Course e-Reserve and on CourseLink.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional): The success of any seminar depends on the thoughtful contributions of all participants, the initiative of students willing to have their views challenged and to take responsibility for their own learning experience, and an atmosphere of mutual respect. Attendance is essential to meeting these basic expectations.

**List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 20th/21st century.**