

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*2200	Course Title: Postcolonial Literatures	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
---------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Course Instructor: Julie Cairnie	Course Format: Lecture
----------------------------------	------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis: This course provides an introduction to African literatures in English. Africa is a vast and diverse continent (not a country) that includes 53 countries and whose people speak approximately 1000 different languages, some indigenous and some introduced by European and Arab colonizers. With this in mind, the course provides a very brief glimpse of the continent and its literatures. Specifically, we will explore postcolonial identities in African literature. One of the core issues in postcolonial studies is identity, and it is an issue that generates a number of key questions. What has been the impact of colonization and decolonization on tradition and religious practice in Africa? How do our African texts articulate the difficulty of belonging and fitting in, for both black and white Africans? What happens to identity when people migrate or are forced into exile? Finally, how do we, as readers in a Canadian university setting, negotiate the problem of reading texts that seem to be outside our experience? In other words, how do we negotiate our way into a meaningful critical and human relationship with these texts? We set out to answer these questions of identity through four interrelated topics: Tradition, Religion, Migration and Exile, and White Africans.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

In-Class Tests	(6) 60%
Close Readings	(2) 20%
Short Theory Quiz	(1) 5%
Discussion Questions	(3) 15%

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

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Random House)
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus* (Vintage)
Adwoa Badoe, *Between Sisters* (Groundwood)
Brian Chikwava, *Harare North* (Vintage)
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *The River Between* (Heinemann)
Richard Poplak, *Ja No, Man* (Penguin)

A selection of primary and secondary readings (posted on CourseLink)

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional): The course focus may change — please contact me before purchasing texts (jcairnie@uoguelph.ca)

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