

CST 2310: Comparative Studies: Non-Western Literatures Fall 2012

Required Texts:

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Nigeria)

Kamala Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve* (India)

Gabriel García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons* (Colombia)

Bessie Head and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *To Stir the Heart* (Kenya and South Africa)

Ibtihal Salem, *Children of the Waters* (Egypt)

Course Description:

In this course, students will gain an introduction to exemplary non-Western literature, or literature from the global South (a term preferred by many because it is considered less pejorative than the term non-Western). The global South includes areas of the world distinct from the industrialized North: South Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Through selected texts from these regions of the world, students will gain exposure to a dazzling array of racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity, to the oftentimes painful and traumatic historical events that helped shape these diversities, and to different styles of writing, primarily though not exclusively in English. In addition, students will learn to cultivate cultural sensitivity to such multicultural issues as ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, class, and gender. In class discussion and in their writing, students will examine these topics and bring their own location as Americans to bear upon their interpretations.

The Wright State Core Learning Outcomes:

CST 2310 is a designated Wright State Core course. The requirements for this course (reading, writing, and class participation) and the selection of required texts are aimed at achieving the following Wright State Core learning outcomes:

- communicate effectively;
- evaluate arguments and evidence critically;
- apply the methods of inquiry of the arts and humanities;
- demonstrate global and intercultural competence;
- demonstrate understanding of contemporary social and ethical issues; and
- participate in democratic society as informed and civically engaged citizens.

CST 2310 belongs to Element 3 (Global Traditions) of the Wright State Core and again, through reading, writing, and class participation, emphasizes Element 3's learning outcomes, to

- critically describe some of the political, social or economic systems, historical, cultural or spiritual traditions, and/or technological innovations around the world;
- demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of people or traditions in our world in ways that promote effective engagement, both locally and globally; and

- use political, social, economic, historical, cultural, spiritual or technological knowledge to evaluate contemporary issues.

Integrated Writing Outcomes:

CST 2310 is also an Integrated Writing (IW) course. This means that students will be expected to produce writing and revisions of writing that

- demonstrate their understanding of course content,
- is appropriate for the audience and purpose of a particular writing task,
- demonstrate the degree of mastery of disciplinary writing conventions,
- is appropriate to the course (including documentation conventions), and
- show competency in standard edited American English.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will write and revise a **paper** (4-5 pages) on any text studied in our class. Topics and guidelines for this paper will be handed out in the fourth week of the semester. The rough draft will be due in the seventh week of the semester. The revision will be due at the end of the course. The paper will count towards 30% of the final grade.
2. 30% of the semester grade will be based on **short-answer quizzes** over the literature and lectures. Some will take place on assigned days, others not. If you are absent on a quiz day, you will receive an F for the quiz. Make-up work will not substitute for missed quizzes. Exceptions to this policy will only be made if you have informed me of your absence beforehand so that we can work out an alternative plan.
3. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken ten times during the term, making up 10% of the final grade. These times will be randomly chosen. If you miss class on the day attendance was taken, you will not be counted as present under any circumstance. I will not accept make-up work as counting towards attendance. If you must be absent from class, please make arrangements with someone to take notes for you.

LATE ARRIVAL: Please be on time for class. Being on time means being in class when your name is called for roll. Two tardies equals one absence.

If you are late for class, please let me know, after class, that you were present for the class session; otherwise, I will count you absent.

If you must leave before class is over, please let me know before class. Otherwise, you will be counted absent for that class.

4. **Participation:** This course will be conducted as a discussion group with occasional lecture. Hence, students are expected to participate regularly and actively. 10% of the final grade is based on participation.

5. There will be a final examination on the university's scheduled day and time. The exam is 20 % of your final grade.

Outline of Readings:

- Aug. 26-28 **NIGERIA; INTRODUCTION TO COLONIALISM**
Introduction to Nigeria (People, History, Current Events); begin Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Sept. 2-4 Complete Achebe; quiz # 1
- Sept. 9-11 **INDIA; AT WHAT COST MODERNITY?**
Introduction to India (People, History, Current Events); begin Markandaya, *Nectar in a Sieve*
- Sept. 16-18 Complete Markandaya; topics and guidelines for essay handed out
- Sept. 25-27 **COLOMBIA; SUBJUGATED KNOWLEDGES**
Introduction to Colombia (People, History, Current Events); begin García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons*
- Oct. 2-4 Complete García Márquez; quiz # 3
- Oct. 9-11 **SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA; POST-COLONIAL GENDER CONSTRUCTIONS**
Ngũgĩ and Head, short stories; rough draft of essay due
- Oct. 16-18 Continue short stories
- Oct. 23-25 Complete short stories
- Oct. 30-Nov. 1 **EGYPT; GENDER AND RELIGION**
Introduction to Egypt (People, History, Current Events); begin Salem, *Children of the Waters*
- Nov. 6-8 Continue short stories
- Nov. 13-15 Complete short stories; quiz # 5
- Nov. 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 27-29 Workshop on essay writing
- Dec. 4-6 Conclusions; essay due

Course information:

Title: CST 2310: Comparative Studies: Non-Western Literatures

Credit: Three semester hours

Course Description: Introduction to non-Western literatures from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, and development of critical vocabulary for appreciation of issues relevant to the literature.

Offering Unit: Department of English, College of Liberal Arts