

Master Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: College of Liberal Arts
Department: English Language and Literatures
Course Title: Comparative Nonwestern Literature
Course Designation and Number: CST 231
GE Areas: II: Cultural-Social Foundations – The Non-Western World
VI: College Component

Writing Intensive **Yes** **No**

For WI Courses: **All Sections**

Methods of Instruction: **Lecture**
 Discussion
 Web Enhanced
 Web Only
 Other:

Includes Lab: **Yes** **No**

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

GE courses will help students

- sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- learn about the aesthetic . . . social and cultural dimensions of human experience
- increase knowledge and understanding of the past

GE Area Objectives:

Area II courses will

- describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern culture
- describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals

Area VI—Students will

- communicate with individuals . . . in [their] majors, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- understand important relationships and interdependencies between [their] majors and other academic disciplines . . . or life endeavors

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes

Comparative Nonwestern Worldviews: Literature (CST 231: Literature) introduces students to the critical reading of literary texts situated outside the western cultural and literary tradition. It also introduces students to the discipline of writing critically and thoughtfully about literature. The learning objectives of courses in the Cultural-Social Foundations: Nonwestern World area specify that students will:

(1) describe and analyze historical-social elements of nonwestern cultures

The main activities in the course will center on the study of significant creative works from a variety of nonwestern cultures. Students will learn to recognize important features and historical, social and cultural contexts of such works and will have experience discussing them in a variety of formats. In critically reading and interpreting literary works, students will engage in a variety of approaches to understanding literature and the cultures that produce it. In their writing about literature, students will have the opportunity to make these approaches concrete and practical.

(3) describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals

Students in CST 231: Literature will study the language and forms of the literary texts they read in several global contexts. First, the study of literatures written by colonized peoples from a variety of cultures encourages students to understand the historical concerns and patterns of expression of such peoples around the globe. Second, a class in nonwestern literature will necessarily discuss some of the relationships and influences operating between canonical western literatures (the writing of the colonizers) and the nonwestern writings that often react or respond to them.

CST 231: Literature will also be available under Area 6, the college component for the College of Liberal Arts.

Every CoLA major addresses aspects of human culture, experience, expression, communication, and social organization. Literature is one of the most important and pervasive ways humans have used throughout history to present themselves, to characterize their culture, to understand their personal identity, and to clarify their relationship with their society. Thus, the study of literature in CST 231: Literature will provide a passport to the human sciences and to the study of human expression.

For WI Courses: WAC Objectives

The Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program at Wright State University has three principal goals:

- to use writing to explore and better understand course content.
- to give students opportunities to improve their writing skills.

- to introduce students to the different ways writing is used in different fields of study.

Typically, instructors in CST 231 use most or all of the following kinds of assignments: reading journals; in-class reading responses; electronic class discussion groups (through chat rooms or email); essay questions on quizzes and examinations; formal critical papers. In all sections of CST 231, all or nearly all the course grade is based on written assignments. Students who cannot complete the writing-intensive portion of the course will not receive a C or better in the course grade.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Sample Texts:

Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart (Nigeria)
 Nawaal El Saadawi, Woman at Point Zero (Egypt)
 Khushwant Singh, Train to Pakistan (India/Pakistan)
 Vikram Chandra, Love and Longing in Bombay (India)
 Jessica Hagedorn, Dogeaters (Philippines/US)

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Sample assignments

1. **Quizzes.** These will include short answer and essay questions.
2. **Paper** including draft and revision.
3. **Mid-term examination—essay form**
4. **Final examination—essay form**

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.
 WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

Week 1	Introduction to course; Chinua Achebe, <u>Things Fall Apart</u>
Week 2	Complete Achebe; quiz #1
Week 3	Complete Nawal El Saadawi, <u>Woman at Point Zero</u>
Week 4	View film, <u>Hidden Faces</u> ; quiz #2; draft of Paper due
Week 5	Complete Khushwant Singh, <u>Train to Pakistan</u>
Week 6	Quiz #3; Mid-Term Examination
Week 7	Begin Vikram Chandra, <u>Love and Longing in Bombay</u>
Week 8	Complete Chandra; quiz #4
Week 9	Begin Jessica Hagedorn, <u>Dogeaters</u>
Week 10	Complete Hagedorn; quiz #5; Revised Paper due
Week 11	Final examination

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services Information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy