



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

### COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2020

#### **EN2230 (A2): Reading Politics: Empire and the Postcolonial – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Craig Smith      **PHONE:** 780-539-2894  
**OFFICE:** C308      **E-MAIL:** CrSmith@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the dynamics of colonization and its resistances in literary and other cultural texts and to the critical concepts and methods key to their study.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** 6 credits of junior English

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Rhys, Jean – *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
Coetzee, J.M. – *Waiting for the Barbarians*  
Achebe, Chinua – *Anthills of the Savannah*  
Ghosh, Amitav – *The Calcutta Chromosome*  
Carey, Peter – *True History of the Kelly Gang*

Other class readings will be posted to Brightspace (D2L); it is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

**FALL 2020 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery.** This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through [helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Reading texts from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australia, students will have the chance to learn about key questions, issues, and debates in the field of postcolonial literary studies. In this course, we will explore intersections of gender, class, nation, and ethnicity, we will trace the legacies of Western colonialism and anti-colonial resistance movements, and we will discuss and debate issues of representational politics and literary value. Ultimately, we will attempt to understand what makes postcolonial literature a vibrant, distinct, and diverse body of writing.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- Familiarity with, and the ability to employ, terminology relevant to the understanding of postcolonial literatures and postcolonial theory
- Familiarity with different national historical contexts and an ability to discuss those contexts in relation to postcolonial writings
- The ability to perform close textual analysis of different genres of writing
- An ability to perform research and incorporate secondary materials effectively and responsibly into written assignments

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Participation – 10%

Reading Quizzes – 5%

Presentation – 15%

Short Paper – 10%

Longer Paper – 25%

Brightspace Discussion Questions – 5%

Final exam – 30%

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>		<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Week 1: Introduction to the course

Weeks 2-3: The internalized dynamics of colonization  
Anticolonial resistance and the politics of place

Weeks 4-5: Imitation and originality  
Writing back

Weeks 6-7: Key conceptual debates: language, voice, representation, aesthetic

value

- Weeks 8-9:        The ethical dilemmas of the colonizer who refuses  
                         The body and writing
- Weeks 10-11:     Postcolonial disillusionment
- Weeks 11-12:     Ways of knowing: Orientalism and Occidental Epistemologies
- Weeks 13-15:     History, Nation, Authenticity

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Written assignments are to be uploaded to Brightspace (D2L). Late work will be penalized **5%** per day, with weekends counting as two days. Students must accept the Turnitin agreement to submit written work.
2. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
3. Classes will be synchronous and students are expected to attend *all* remotely delivered classes. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade and could result in a failing grade for that component of a student's final mark.
4. Students are required to check Brightspace (D2L) before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and announcements.
5. This is an unusual semester, and it will bring unique challenges to all of us. Accordingly, it is especially important for all of us to work to foster a respectful, collegiate environment when we meet. Please have your webcams turned on during

class time. The chat function of Zoom is reserved for class-related discussions. There will be zero tolerance for belligerence and rudeness between students.

6. Students should feel free to email me with questions or concerns at any point during the semester. That said, be aware that all your instructors are expecting a high volume of emails due to the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic. This means that although I will do my best to respond to your emails as quickly as possible, students should anticipate a 24-48 hour delay (depending on which day, the time of the day, what stage of the semester we're in, etc.). Students should also be prepared to meet with me via Zoom to discuss any matters that cannot be answered quickly through email (going over a draft of an upcoming assignment, reviewing comments on a marked assignment, etc.).

7. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in December. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at [www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES)

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>