

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2022

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

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Craig Smith	PHONE:	780-539-2894
OFFICE:	C308	E-MAIL:	crsmith@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday 11:45-12:30, Friday 1:00-2:00, or 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 TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Rhys, Jean – *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Coetzee, J.M. – *Age of Iron*
Ghosh, Amitav – *The Calcutta Chromosome*
Roy, Arundhati – *The God of Small Things*
Carey, Peter – *True History of the Kelly Gang*
Barrett, A. Igoni – *Blackass*

Other class readings will be posted to MyClass (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.

DELIVERY MODE(S): The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, and written assignments

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:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** 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%
 Secondary Source Report – 10%
 Short Paper – 20%
 Longer Paper – 25%
 Final exam – 30%

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

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

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
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
Week 2:	The internalized dynamics of colonization Anticolonial resistance
Weeks 3-4:	Imitation and originality Writing back Aesthetics and Commitment
Weeks 5-6:	The colonizer who resists Subalternity
Weeks 7-8:	Ways of knowing: Orientalism and Occidental Epistemologies
Weeks 9-10:	Postcolonial disillusionment
Weeks 11-12:	History, Nation, Authenticity
Weeks 13-15:	The Postcolonial Absurd Narratives of Passing

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Unless otherwise indicated, all written work be uploaded to MyClass (D2L) **AND** submitted as a hard copy. Students must accept the Turnitin agreement to submit written work.
2. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of **5%** per day, with weekends counting as two.
3. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
4. My expectation is that students who are healthy will attend **all** classes. Students who are ill or need to be absent for other legitimate reasons should contact and inform me. Excused absences will have no impact on a student's grade; however, 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.
5. Students are required to check MyClass before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of

readings as well as course updates and announcements.

6. Students do not need to make appointments to meet with me during my office hours. Anyone who wants to meet with me outside of my scheduled hours may contact me to arrange an alternate meeting time. Students wishing to meet via Zoom rather than in my office may request a virtual appointment. Please note that I will not meet with you outside of regular working hours.

7. Cellphones should be out of sight during class time. Students who are repeatedly on their cellphones during class will receive failing grades for participation.

8. Students should feel free to email me with questions or concerns at any point during the semester. I will do my best to respond to your emails as quickly as possible, but emails sent outside of regular working hours will not receive immediate replies.

9. 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.

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 Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found

at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=69>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.