POSTCOLONIAL INDIAN LITERATURE

**Semester**: SPRING 2016

**Class code**: ENGL-UA9975

**Class Details**

POSTCOLONIAL INDIAN LITERATURE

Tuesdays, 6-9 pm

Room 101

**Prerequisites**: None

**Class Description**

Readings in Indian postcolonial literature

Lectures, class discussion, one field trip, one writer’s visit

**Desired Outcomes**

(1) Analysis of a number of pieces of related literature

(2) Understanding of their social and historical context

(3) Understanding of the complicated relationship between India and Britain, and its traces in London

**Assessment Components**

One class presentation of 15 minutes: 25%

Two papers of 10 pages each: 25% each, due in 23 February and 22 April

Class participation: 25%

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A**: 90-100%  Well written, well informed, well argued work

**Grade B**: 80-89%  Well written, well informed, competently argued, less original work

**Grade C**: 70-79%  Poorly written, reasonably well informed, unoriginal work

**Grade D**: 65-69%  Badly written, ill informed work
Grade F: Below 65% Work with no evidence of any significant effort

Required Text(s)
E.M. Forster, A PASSAGE TO INDIA (Penguin) 0-14-018076-1
Rudyard Kipling, THE DAY'S WORK (selected stories to be supplied to class)
Rudyard Kipling, KIM (Penguin) 978-0-140620
M.K. Gandhi, HIND SWARAJ (Cambridge UP) 0521574315
Jhumpa Lahiri, THE INTERPRETER OF MALADIES – STORIES OF BENGAL, BOSTON AND
BEYOND(Flamingo) 0-00-655179-3
Nikita Lalwani, THE VILLAGE (Viking) 978-0-0670-91708-2
Shani Mootoo, CEREUS BLOOMS AT NIGHT (Granta) 1-86207-221-3
Arundhati Roy, THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS (Fourth Estate) 978-0-00-655068-6
Philip Meadows Taylor, THE CONFESSIONS OF A THUG (Oxford UP) 0-19-285157-8

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)
PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS ALWAYS USEFUL TO READ FURTHER IN THE SET AUTHORS
Ballantyne, Tony, ORIENTALISM AND RACE (2002)
Butalia, Urvashi, THE OTHER SIDE OF SILENCE: VOICES FROM THE PARTITION OF INDIA
(1996)
Donnell, Alison, TWENTIETH-CENTURY CARIBBEAN LITERATURE (2008)
Fraser, Robert, VICTORIAN QUEST ROMANCE: STEVENSON, HAGGARD, KIPLING, AND CONA
DOYLE (1996)
Lelyveld, Joseph, GREAT SOUL: MAHATMA GANDHI AND HIS STRUGGLE WITH INDIA (2011)
Majeed, Javed, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, TRAVEL AND POSTCOLONIAL IDENTITY (2007)
Roy, Arundhati, LISTENING TO GRASSHOPPERS (2010)

Internet Research Guidelines
N/A

Additional Required Equipment
N/A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Introduction to course, explanation of papers, assignment of class presentations, and field trip – walk round Bloomsbury to examine the presence of India there (handouts to be supplied)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Philip Meadows Taylor, THE CONFESSIONS OF A THUG (1839) – the whole novel to be read in advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>We shall discuss the ways in which the author argues for British rule</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Arthur Conan Doyle, THE SIGN OF FOUR (1890) – the whole novella to be read in advance</td>
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<td>16 February</td>
<td>We shall discuss the attitude to imperial treasure</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Selected stories (to be provided in advance) from Rudyard Kipling, THE DAY’S WORK (1898) – the stories to be read in advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>We shall discuss the value of work for Kipling</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FIRST ESSAY DUE IN</td>
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<td>NO CLASS ON 1 MARCH – THIS CLASS WILL BE MADE UP ON FRIDAY 22 APRIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Rudyard Kipling, KIM (1901) – the whole novel to be read in advance</td>
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<td>8 March</td>
<td>We shall discuss the significance of the term ‘The Great Game’</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>E.M.Forster, A PASSAGE TO INDIA (1924) – the whole novel to be read in advance</td>
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<td>15 March</td>
<td>We shall focus on the secret of the Caves</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>M.K.Gandhi, HIND SWARAJ (1909) – whole text to be read in advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>We have now turned to the Indian viewpoint: is it a rational one?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>R.K.Narayan, THE PAINTER OF SIGNS (1976) – the whole novel to be read in advance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5 April
We shall discuss the way the traditional is posed against the modern

Session 9
Shani Mootoo, CEREUS BLOOMS AT NIGHT (1996)- the whole novel to be read in advance

12 April
We shall be looking at colonised Indians from a Caribbean viewpoint

Session 10
Jhumpa Lahiri, THE INTERPRETER OF MALADIES(1999) – the first half of the collection to be read in advance

17 April
We shall debate the connections between Bengal and Boston

Session 11
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A FRIDAY

22 April
We shall compete our reading of the Lahiri collection

SECOND ESSAY DUE IN

Session 12
Nikita Lalwani, THE VILLAGE (2012)- the whole novel to be read in advance

26 April
WRITER’S VISIT
One or two students may interview the writer in lieu of a class presentation

Session 13
Arundhati Roy, THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS (1997)- the whole novel to be read in advance

3 May
We shall discuss whether this is the perfect ‘tourist’ text

Session 14
Each student brings a relevant text to discuss with the rest of the class

10 May

Session 15
NO EXAM.
**Classroom Etiquette**

No unauthorized toilet breaks, no conversations not shared with whole class, no eating, no drinking, no mobile phones, no laptops

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

N/A

**Estimated Travel Costs**

N/A

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

N/A

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**NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity**

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others.

At NYU London, students will submit electronic copies of their written work to Turnitin via their NYU Classes course site. Instructions will be provided to you separately.

**Late Submission of Work**

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:00 – 17:00). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centres is an academically intensive and immersive experience. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. As classes typically meet once a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course.

To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

**How to report an absence**

Absences from class must be reported to NYU London administrative staff using the online Absence Form: http://tinyurl.com/nyulabsence
Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported using this form. Students should NOT approach their class instructor for an excused absence. However, students should contact their class instructor to catch up on missed work.

Medical absences
If you are unable to attend a class due to ill-health, you must provide details of your illness and class(es) missed to NYUL staff using the online Absence Form WITHIN SEVEN DAYS of your return to class.

Please do not use the form to report a medical emergency or to request urgent assistance. In a medical emergency call 999 and ask for an ambulance. NYU London staff are available to offer support, whatever time of day. If you would like to speak to a member of staff urgently to request support with a medical problem, please call 0800 316 0469, selecting option 2.

Non-medical absences
If you have to miss class for an unavoidable, non-medical reason you must provide details to NYUL staff using the online Absence Form at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question. Examples of valid non-medical reasons are as follows: religious holiday; family wedding; scholarship competition; family emergency. If in doubt please speak to a member of Academics staff or email academics@nyu.ac.uk. Failure to provide requested documentation for these types of absences will result in the absence remaining unexcused.

Further information regarding absences
NYU London staff carefully monitor student attendance and absence records. In most cases full completion of the online Absence Form will be sufficient to excuse your absence. However, in certain circumstances, you will be asked to provide additional information/verification before it can be excused. If we notice that you have multiple absences you will be contacted to arrange a meeting with a member of staff.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. Students may not take an exam before or after other students in the class, and may not leave the programme before all course work has been submitted.

Please refer to the NYU Wikis Page for the full absence policy: https://wikis.nyu.edu/x/awRgAw

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Grade Conversion
NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the midpoint of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

NYU requires all instructors to submit midterm grades for their students. Midterm grading is considered an educational best practice, and plays an important role in schools’ early intervention programs, which enable advisers to identify and to respond to students in crisis.