Postcolonial Indian Literature

Class code
ENGL-UA.9975.001

Instructor Details
Dr Mary CONDE
Office hour Tuesday 9-10 am

Class Details
POSTCOLONIAL INDIAN LITERATURE
Tuesday 10-1 am
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
This course explores the meanings of colonialism and postcolonialism in India by examining its historical background and its defining problems. We shall examine a cross-section of colonial and postcolonial literary representations of India. Our particular focus will be on issues of identity, and on narrative strategies.
The course will consist of a series of seminars and lectures with a strong emphasis on student participation.
We shall have one field trip, and a visit from a writer.

Desired Outcomes
The course has three aims: to give students a firm grasp of colonialism and postcolonialism in India, to give them a knowledge of a selection of colonial and postcolonial literary representations of India, and to sharpen their powers of analysis.

Assessment Components
Two papers of 2500 words each, due in 11 March and 13 May (approx.. 10 pages each): 25% each
One class presentation, to be arranged at the first class, to last about 20 minutes, to open the class and promote discussion: 25%
Class participation: 25%
Topics of papers MUST be approved by me first.

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

Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of the Four* 0-19-282379-5 World’s Classics
E.M.Forster, *A Passage to India* 0-14-018076-1 Penguin
Rudyard Kipling, *The Day’s Work* (SELECTED STORIES TO BE SUPPLIED)
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* 978-0140620 Penguin
Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Interpreter of Maladies – Stories of Bengal, Boston and Beyond*
0-00-655179-3 Flamingo
Shani Mootoo, *Cereus Blooms at Night* 1-86207-221-3 Granta
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* 978-0-00-655068-6 Fourth Estate

Supplemental Texts

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS ALWAYS USEFUL TO READ FURTHER IN THE SET AUTHORS
Lelyveld, Joseph. *Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India* (2011)

Internet Research Guidelines N/A

Additional Required Equipment N/A

Session 1
Introduction to course, discussion of course objectives, assignment of class presentations.

Tuesday 28 Jan.
Study in class of selections from Rudyard Kipling’s *Letters of Marque* (1887-1889) copies will be supplied. How and why is Kipling presenting himself as ‘the Englishman’ in these despatches?

**Session 2**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) Philip Meadows Taylor’s *Confessions of a Thug* (1839)

Tuesday 4 Feb. 10-1

How does the novel present an argument for continuing British rule in India?

(From now on we shall be discussing in class possible topics for papers)

**Session 3**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of the Four* (1890)

Tuesday 11 Feb. 10-1

How is India presented as ‘other’?

**Session 4**

Set texts (to be read in their entirety) Selected stories from Rudyard Kipling, *The Day’s Work* (1898) – copies to be supplied in previous class

Tuesday 18 Feb. 10-1

What are the virtues of work for Kipling?

**Session 5**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)

Tuesday 25 Feb. 10-1

What is the Great Game, and why is it called that?

**Session 6**

OUT & ABOUT

Tuesday 4 Mar. 10-1

We shall go on a field trip to examine the traces (plaques, statues, museum artefacts) of India in London

**Session 7**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) E.M.Forster, *A Passage to India* (1924)

Tuesday 11 Mar. 10-1

What is the secret of the Caves?

FIRST PAPER DUE IN

**Session 8**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) M.K.Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (1909)

Tuesday 18 Mar. 10-1

We are now turning to the Indian viewpoint. How does Gandhi situate India against Britain?

Papers will be retuned, and may be discussed individually if you would like.

**Session 9**

Set text (to be read in its entirety) R.K.Naryan, *The Painter of Signs* (1976)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 10</th>
<th>How is the traditional set against the modern?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 April 10-1</td>
<td>How does a Caribbean viewpoint modify our reaction to colonized Indians?</td>
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<td><strong>Session 11</strong></td>
<td>Set text (to be read in its entirety) Shani Mootoo, <em>Cereus Blooms at Night</em> (1996)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 22 April 10-1</td>
<td>Why does this novel win the Booker Prize?</td>
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<td><strong>Session 12</strong></td>
<td>Set text (to be read in its entirety) Arundhati Roy, <em>The God of Small Things</em> (1997)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 April 10-1</td>
<td>Why did this collection of short stories win the Pulitzer Prize?</td>
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<td><strong>Session 13</strong></td>
<td>This week each student must come prepared to talk about a book, independently read, relating to this course. Make sure that you are clear on ORIGINAL date of publication, author and title, and on the ways your book relates to this course. If you choose a novel, go easy on the plot – think about the underlying ideas, and the author’s assumptions about India.</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6 May 10-1</td>
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<td><strong>Session 14</strong></td>
<td>Set text (to be read in its entirety) Nikita Lalwani, <em>The Village</em> (2012)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 13 May 10-1</td>
<td>This village is full of murderers. It is hoped that the writer will be able to visit the class.</td>
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<td><strong>SECOND PAPER DUE IN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session 15</strong></td>
<td>Conclusions. Papers will be returned and discussed, and we shall reflect on what we have learnt.</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20 May 10-1</td>
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<td><strong>Classroom Etiquette</strong></td>
<td>No eating, drinking, or conversations not shared with the whole class. We shall have little breaks, so please try not to take independent toilet breaks.</td>
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<td><strong>Required Co-curricular</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Activities

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Go to the Victoria and Albert museum and the British Museum as often as you can to look at the Indian artefacts. Little and often is much better than a long-haul visit.

Your Instructor

Dr Mary CONDE is Senior Research Fellow in English at Queen Mary, University of London.

Her most recent article (2012) was on Catherine Bush and Jean McNeil, her most recent guest lecture (2013) was at the University of Bologna at Ravenna, her most recent conference paper (2013) was at the University of Rome 3.

NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your
professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

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**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, 10:30 – 17:30). 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.

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**Attendance Policy**

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

**Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.**

**Absence reporting for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at


4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

### Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for **non-illness** reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office **prior to the date(s) in question** – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

### Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

**Grade conversion**

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

- **A**=94-100
- **A-**=90-93
- **B+**=87-89
- **B**=84-86
- **B-**=80-83
- **C+**=77-79
- **C**=74-76
- **C-**=70-73
- **D+**=67-69
- **D**=65-66
- **F**=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point 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.