

ENGLISH 345: Contemporary World Literature

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Course objectives: In this course, we will be reading contemporary fiction from India, Sudan, South Africa, and Great Britain. Throughout the course, we will be analyzing the subjects, themes, narrative techniques, language and structure of contemporary literature written in English.

Course Requirements:

Three short papers
A midterm
A research paper
A final exam

Required Texts:

Aboulela, Minaret
Wicomb, Playing in the Light
Gordimer Beethoven was One-Sixteenth Black and other stories
Mda Ways of Dying
Adiga The White Tiger

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 10% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate, especially on discussion days. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All**

Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented. If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me.

Grade breakdown:

Class Attendance/Participation	10%
Three short papers	30%
Research paper	25%
Midterm	15%
Final exam	20%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale.

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Jan 15 Introduction

Jan 20 Sudan and Minaret

Jan 22-29 Minaret

Feb 3 First paper due; South Africa and apartheid

Feb 5-17 Ways of Dying

Feb 19-Mar 3 Playing in the Light

Mar 3 proposals for research paper due

Mar 5 Midterm

Spring Break

Mar 17-24 Gordimer short stories

Mar 24 Second short paper due

Mar 26-Apr 9 The White Tiger

April 2 drafts of research paper due

Apr 14-23 Readings TBA

Apr 14 third short paper due

Apr 21 research paper due

Apr 27 final class day; review

Exam Wednesday May 6

