

English 345 Tentative Syllabus

Fall 2004

Dr. Loflin

Office : Language 106B

Office Hours: MW 1:45-3:00, Tuesday 1:30-2:20 And by appointment

Course objectives: to learn how to read literature from beyond our cultural boundaries; explore the national and cultural identities of writers from Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho and the rest of Southern Africa; develop skills in literary analysis; consider how the genres of the short story, the novel, the autobiography are transformed in this different context. We will also have the opportunity for international discussion of these texts with Professor Dorothy Driver and Professor Meg Samuelson's Southern African literature class at the University of Cape Town.

Requirements:

1. Class attendance
2. Participation on the Blackboard conference
3. 4 2-page rhetorical analyses
4. 2 short essays, 3-5 pages
5. A research paper, 7-10 pages

Tentative schedule:

August 26-30th *Singing Away the Hunger* Chs 1-7, Mia Couto "The Fire," "The Whales of Quissico:

9/2 *Singing Away the Hunger* Chs 8-10, Mia Couto "The Day Mabata-bata exploded" and "The Birds of God"

9/7 *Singing Away the Hunger*

9/9 *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* pp 1-66 first rhetorical analysis due

9/14 *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* 67-189
documentary: "Maids and Madams" in class

9/16 finish *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*
topics for discussion: white African identity, African autobiography, city and country life in Fuller and Nthunya

9/21 Pepetela *The Return of the Water Spirit*

Secondary reading: Billingham, "Pepetela," Cooper "Realism and magical realism" topics for discussion: use of the supernatural, comparisons with Couto, representation of politics, corruption. Read the UCT syllabus and prepare a discussion question/issue to post **on English 345 conference** by Wed night (9/22)

9/23 *The Return of the Water Spirit* second rhetorical analysis due

- documentary “Goldwidows” in class
- 9/28 **Blackboard Discussion.** Reading: Pepetela *The Return of the Water Spirit*
beginning of Blackboard discussions with South African students.
- 9/30 **Blackboard Discussion.** Reading: Marechera, *The House of Hunger*
Read South African essay abstracts on Blackboard and post a response to at least one of these.
- 10/5 **Blackboard Discussion.** Reading: Secondary reading: Gagliano, Veit-Wild
Posting: Post an abstract of your short essay on the Blackboard conference;
respond to SA postings
- 10/7 **Blackboard Discussion** with South African class. Reading:
Posting: respond to SA postings
- 10/12—Fall Break
- 10/14 Review Blackboard discussion with South African class (their class will
conclude on 10/12)
- 10/19 Reading: Mia Couto **First short essay due**
Secondary reading: Brookshaw, “Mia Couto”
- 10/21 Reading: Mia Couto (finish)
- 10/26 Reading South African fiction (e-reserves)
- 10/28 Reading South African fiction (e-reserves)
- 11/2 Reading South African poetry
- 11/4 Reading SA poetry Rhetorical Analysis #3 due
- 11/9 Coetzee, *Disgrace*
- 11/11 *Disgrace* **Second essay due**
- 11/16 *Disgrace*
- 11/18 *Disgrace* **Research paper draft due**
- 11/23 Ngcobo, *And They Didn’t Die*
- 11/25 Thanksgiving—no class
- 11/30 Ngcobo, *And They Didn’t Die* **Research paper due**
- 12/2 Ngcobo, *And They Didn’t Die* Rhetorical analysis #4 due
- 12/7 Last class