

ENGLISH 345: Contemporary World Literature

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Course objectives: In this course, we will be reading fiction from South Africa and Zimbabwe. We will be comparing and contrasting texts written during the period of apartheid (including the state of emergency) and contemporary post-apartheid literature. How have different writers responded to the predicament of writing under apartheid? What different themes and styles have emerged post-apartheid? We will also look at similarities/contrasts with fiction from Zimbabwe. How is writing related to the social and political construct in which it is written and read?

Course Requirements:

Four short papers
A midterm
A research paper
A final exam

Required Texts:

Brink A Dry White Season
Coetzee Disgrace
Dangarembga Dangerous Conditions
Gordimer July's People
Mda Heart of Redness
Mpe Welcome To Our Hillbrow
Vera The Stone Virgins
Wicomb You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town

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 20% 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. Quizzes and other in-class assignments will count towards your participation grade.

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	20%
Four short papers	35%
Research paper	20%
Midterm	10%
Final exam	15%

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

Weekly Outline of Topics to be covered:

Wed January 19 Introduction and Objectives; A Look Backwards

Jan 24-26 Brink A Dry White Season

Jan 31 First short paper due;

February 2-4 Wicomb You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town

Feb 7 Wicomb You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town

Feb 9-16 Gordimer July's People

Feb 16 Second short paper due

Feb 18 Dangarembga Nervous Conditions

Feb 21-28 Nervous Conditions

Mar 2 Midterm

Spring Break

Mar 14-16 The Stone Virgins

Mar 21-23 The Stone Virgins

Mar 23	third short paper due
Mar 28-30	<u>Welcome To Our Hillbrow</u>
Apr 4-6	<u>Disgrace</u>
Apr 11	<u>Disgrace</u>
Apr 13-20	Mda <u>Heart of Redness</u>
Apr 6	Research proposals and sources due
Apr 18	Research paper drafts due; workshop day
Apr 25	Final short paper due; review for final exam