

English 345 Tentative Syllabus

Spring 2006

Dr. Loflin

Office : Language 106B

Office Hours: MW 9-10, F 2-3 And by appointment

Course Description: In this course, we will be reading contemporary South African literature from a variety of writers. These include works written during and after the apartheid era in South Africa. Focus will be on the different social, aesthetic, political and cultural discourses and how these construct and define issues of nationality and nation building, race and ethnicity, gender and class. We will also be considering how characters establish their identity in a society of dramatic change, and how the changing social and political conditions in South Africa affect the evaluation of and standards for literary arts. Authors included in the course: J.M. Coetzee, Bessie Head, Lauretta Ngcobo, Zoe Wicomb and Mongane Serote. In addition to these authors, the course will include some history, literary criticism, and possibly films.

During the course, we will have the opportunity to discuss at least one of these texts online with students at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, using Blackboard.

Course Goals:

I expect by the end of the course that you will

- a) be familiar with major authors in South African literature and be able to discuss critically their use of narrative strategies, gender roles and social issues in their works.
- b) have a familiarity with South African history, geography and culture
- c) have a good understanding of what South African students value in South African literature, and can articulate shared values and differences.
- d) become comfortable using Blackboard technology to discuss issues with people you have never met. You will also learn how to use a discussion board ethically and responsibly to communicate internationally.
- e) be able to demonstrate your ability in literary analysis in class and in your written work.

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. . Because excessive absences are disruptive to the entire class, once you have missed three classes you will lose a third of a grade for every unexcused absence after that point.

Class Participation: This will count for 10% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. 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 or pages 96-99 of the Oxford College catalog.

Requirements:

1. Class attendance
2. Participation on the Blackboard conference
3. 4 2-page rhetorical analyses
4. 1 short essay, 3-5 pages
5. A research paper, 7-10 pages
6. A midterm and a final exam

Grading percentages:

Class attendance:	10%
Participation on Blackboard	10%
Rhetorical analyses	20%
Essay	10%
Midterm	10%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

Tentative schedule:

Wed Jan 18 Introduction and Objectives

Jan 20 Read Bessie Head, "Oranges and Lemons," "Snapshots of a Wedding" on Blackboard

Jan 23 Read Nadine Gordimer "Is There Nowhere Else Where We Can Meet?" and "The Bridegroom" on Blackboard

Jan 25	Prison realities, prison as metaphor Read Bessie Head “The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses” and Alex La Guma “Tattoo Marks and Nails” on Blackboard Rhetorical Analysis #1 due
Jan 27	Lauretta Ngcobo <u>And They Didn’t Die</u>
Jan 30- Feb 3	Ngcobo <u>And They Didn’t Die</u>
Feb 6	Ngcobo <u>And They didn’t Die</u> RA #2 due
Feb 8	Bessie Head <u>A Question of Power</u>
Feb 10	<u>A Question of Power</u>
Feb 13- Feb 17	<u>A Question of Power</u>
Feb 20	Pepetela <u>The Return of the Water Spirit</u>
Feb 22	Pepetela <u>The Return of the Water Spirit</u>
Feb 24	No class
Feb 27	Pepetela <u>The Return of the Water Spirit</u>
Mar 1	Pepetela Short essay due (3-5 pages)
Mar 3	Midterm
Mar 6-8	South African poetry: Readings TBA
Mar 10	no class
March 13-17 Spring Break	
Mar 20- Mar 24	Mongane Serote <u>To Every Birth Its Blood</u>
Mar 27- Mar 31	South African drama: Readings TBA
Apr 3-14	J.M. Coetzee <u>Disgrace</u>
Apr 17- Apr 28	Wicomb <u>You Can’t Get Lost in Cape Town</u> April 17: research paper due April 28 RA #4 due
May 1	Review
Exam: Thursday, May 4 9AM	

