

THE SOURCES OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION II  
Fall 2019

FINAL ESSAY

LENGTH: Four pages, typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1 inch margins  
(about 1300-1400 words, including footnotes but not title or bibliography)

DUE DATE: January 5, 2020 [Via Email to [vanwagen@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:vanwagen@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn) AND [vanwagen@umich.edu](mailto:vanwagen@umich.edu)]  
(please send your final papers as Word documents)

This course has introduced and elaborated various postcolonial keywords. Some of those keywords come out of colonial discourse and are critiqued and re-evaluated from a postcolonial perspective; others have been introduced and theorized by postcolonial scholars in recent years. In this essay you will choose one keyword or two related keywords (no more than two) from the course and you will compare and contrast the use of the keyword/s in two course texts.

**Choose 1:**

Conrad, *The Heart of Darkness*

Flaiano, *Time to Kill*

Compare/Contrast with

**Choose 1:**

Ghermandi, *Queen of Flowers and Pearls*

Coates, *Between the World and Me*

Khouma, *I was an Elephant Salesman*

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\*\*\*Guidelines to help you structure your essay\*\*\*

Introductory paragraph:

- (1) state clearly the two texts you have chosen;
- (2) state in your thesis how the texts engage the keyword/s similarly and/or differently AND the larger significance of your comparison;

Body paragraphs:

- (3) define your keyword/s near the top of the essay or relevant paragraph;
- (4) demonstrate your claim of similarity and/or difference, both in your argument and with supporting evidence from the primary texts, and if necessary, with additional evidence/explanation from course secondary texts;

Final body paragraph or concluding paragraph:

- (5) assess the larger significance of the comparison you have made;

N.B.: For your reference, you can find <Ashcroft, Griffiths, Tiffin, *Postcolonial Studies: Key Concept*> on the course website.

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Make sure to underline your THESIS STATEMENT in your introductory paragraph and the TOPIC SENTENCES of each body paragraph.