

## **WORLD LITERATURE II**

**COLI 111 SPRING 2008**

**M, W, F 9:45-10:45**

**Instructor: Juan G. Ramírez Giraldo**

**Office Hours: TBA**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In modernity, knowing is assimilated to representation; nature and history become objects of representation, the former calculated in advance, and the latter, verified as fact. Representation allows man to be certain of being; truth becomes the certainty of representation. In a context where man has freed himself to himself, subjectivism and individualism appear, and interact with the objectivism characteristic of the Modern Age. As a result, man becomes a subject, the relational center of what is. What most deeply marks the beginning of modernity is man's emergence as an object in the epistemological horizon. This course will focus in the question of modernity and of the modern man and his others. We will explore how, through literature, collective subjectivities are shaped and how otherness is represented. Modernity's temporality and location, usually associated with the West, will be called into question. We will see modernity, rather, as an overlapping phenomenon which implies abandoning the West/non-West dichotomy and its derivatives.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Attendance and Participation**

Students will be allowed three absences during the semester. Each additional absence will lower their final mark by half a grade. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class. Quizzes and exams may be necessary, depending on how actively the class participates.

#### **Written Responses**

Each class, a student will be randomly chosen to read a response to that session's assigned texts, and prompt discussion questions to the class. Familiarity with the texts and pertinence of the interventions will be taken into account to receive full credit.

## **Essays/ response papers/ presentations**

This course fulfills a writing or composition requirement; therefore, students are expected to write a total of 25 pages throughout the semester. Two essays will be turned in during the semester: a 5-page mid-term essay and one final 10-page essay. In addition to this, students will be asked to write a few short (1 page) response papers to the required texts, to be turned in every Friday. Students will be required to make one presentation (10-15min) about topics and in dates to be assigned. Plagiarism is prohibited; to find out more about Binghamton University and Harpur College's academic honesty policies visit the following web sites: [http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/program.asp?program\\_id=703#1](http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/program.asp?program_id=703#1)  
<http://harpur.binghamton.edu/campus/policy.htm>

### **Grading:**

Attendance and participation: 10%

Written Responses: 20%

Presentation: 20%

Essay 1: 25%

Essay 2: 25%

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

D. Defoe, Robinson Crusoe

J. Conrad, Heart of Darkness

C. Achebe, Things Fall Apart

G. Garcia Marquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

J. M. Coetzee, Foe

H. Kureishi, Buddha of Suburbia

The books can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Other material will be placed on blackboard.

### **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **Week 1**

Jan. 28: Introduction

Jan. 30: M. Heidegger, *The Age of the World Picture*

Feb. 1: *Robinson Crusoe*, 1-56

## **Week 2**

Feb. 4-8: *Robinson Crusoe*, 57-126 (M); 126-188 (W); 188-241 (F). "Unmapping Adventures: Post-colonial Robinsons and Robinsonades." R. Phillips (E- reserve)

## **First Response Due**

## **Week 3**

Feb. 11-15: *Heart of Darkness*, 1-54 (M); 55-100 (W); 101-146 (F). "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*." C. Achebe (E-reserve)

## **Second Response Due**

## **Week 4**

Feb. 18-22: *Things Fall Apart*, 3-35 (M); 36-62 (W); 63-94 (F)

## **Week 5**

Feb. 25-29: *Things Fall Apart*, 95-125 (M); 129-167 (W); 171-207 (F). "Excavating the New Republic: Post-Colonial Subjectivity in Achebe's 'Things Fall Apart.'" C. Wise (E-reserve)

## **Third Response Due**

## **Week 6**

Mar. 3-7: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 1-36 (M); 37-78 (W); 79-120 (F)

## **Week 7**

Mar. 10 – 14: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 121-161 (M); 161-201 (W); 203-243 (F)

## **Week 8**

Mar. 17-19: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 245-313 (M); 313-375 (W); 377-417 (F). Excerpts from *One Hundred Years of Solitude: Modes of Reading*, by R. Janes (E-Reserve)

## **ESSAY 1 DUE**

### **Week 9: Spring Recess**

### **Week 10**

Mar. 31 and Apr. 2-4: *Foe* 5-45 (M); 43-109 (W); 113-157 (F)

### **Week 11**

Apr. 7: G. Spivak: "Theory in the Margin: J. M. Coetzee's *Foe* Reading Defoe's *Crusoe/Roxana*." And "Ethics and Politics in Tagore, Coetzee, and Certain Scenes of Teaching."

### **Fourth Response Due**

Apr. 9-11: The Buddha of Suburbia

### **Week 12**

Apr. 14-16: The Buddha of Suburbia. "Anarchy in the UK? Ideas of the City and the *Fin de Siecle* in Contemporary English Film and Literature." S. Brooke and L. Cameron.

### **Week 13**

Apr. 23-25: Narratives from the Exile; Readings TBA

### **Fifth Response Due**

### **Week 14**

Apr. 28-30, May 2: Narratives from the Exile; Readings TBA

### **Week 15**

May 5-9: Narratives from the Exile; Readings TBA. Excerpts from E. Said's *Culture and Imperialism*

### **Week 16**

## **FINAL ESSAY DUE, MAY 12**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time.