

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 336
ENGLISH 336: POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE (SAME AS AFL 336)	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 336 includes selected novels, short stories, poems, and plays of postcolonial writers from Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia, the English-speaking Caribbean, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. The course will examine the ways in which postcolonial writers transcend a British Imperial legacy of colonialism to redefine their own distinctive social and cultural worlds.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English. Ed. John Thieme, 1996.

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

1. Reading response journals
2. Brief oral presentations
3. Personal and critical essays
4. Research papers that will involve the use of the Internet
5. Midterm and final exams

F. General Education Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

G. Outline of Topics

Week 1: Introduction and overview of the historical and critical context.

Weeks 2-3: History and Representation

Excerpts from:

Michelle Cliff, *Abeng* (Caribbean)

Keri Hulme, *The Bone People* (New Zealand)

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat* (Africa)

Lloyd Fernando, *Scorpion Orchid* (Malaysia)

Weeks 4-5: Language and Culture

From M. Nourbese Philip, "She Tries Her Tongue: Her Silence Softly Breaks"

(Canada)

From Yasmine Gooneratne, "This Language, This Woman" (Sri Lanka)

From Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Decolonizing the Mind* (Africa)

From Raja Rao, *Kanthapura* (India)

Weeks 6-7: Education and Shaping of Identity

From Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (Africa)

From Yasmine Gooneratne, Poems (India)

From Witi Ihimaera, "The Whale" (short story) (New Zealand)

From Albert Wendt, "Colonialism: the Wounds" (poem) (New Zealand)

Weeks 8-9: A Sense of Self

From Jamaica Kincaid, *At the Bottom of the River* (Caribbean)

From Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood* (Africa)

From Anita Desai, *A Clear Light of Day* (India)

Weeks 10-11: Exile and Displacement

From V.S. Naipaul, *The Enigma of Arrival* (Caribbean)

From Sara Suleri, *Meatless Days* (India)

From Joan Riley, *The Unbelonging* (England)

From K.S. Mamiam, *The Return* (Malaysia)

Weeks 12-12: Transcultural Experiences

From Ruth Praver Jhabvala, "Myself in India" (India/U.S.)

From Fred D'Aguiar, "Letter from Mama Dot," (Caribbean/England)

From Caryl Phillips, *Crossing the River* (Caribbean/England)

From Zulfikar Ghose, "This Landscape, These People" (India/U.S.)

From Salman Rushdie, *Imaginary Homelands* (India/England)

From David Dabydeen, "Two Cultures" (Caribbean/England)

Week 14: Group Projects and Oral Presentations

Week 15: Final exams and research essays