

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: World Literature
Status: Definitive
Code: **6054ENGLIS** (120927)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Filippo Menozzi	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 38
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 202

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12
Practical	24
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Critical essay 2500 words	50	
Portfolio	AS2	Preparation and presentation of a poster and written reflection 2500 words equivalent	50	

Aims

- 1. To introduce students to a range of twentieth century literary and theoretical texts which examine ideas of the local in relation to the global.*
- 2. To consider themes of capitalism, ecology and gender, asking how these are explored and refracted through the literary marketplace.*

3. To familiarise students with the geo-political, historical and ideological contexts behind the literary texts in question.

4. To provide insight into current issues in the fields of world literature, postcolonialism, world ecology and transnational feminism.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically assess a range of literary texts that might be identified as 'world literature' and discuss their handling of local issues in relation to global concerns
- 2 Discuss the themes of capitalism, ecology and gender in relation to the literary marketplace
- 3 Demonstrate awareness of the geo-political, historical and ideological contexts informing the primary texts
- 4 Exercise judgement with regard to a range of theoretical and critical writings from the fields of world literature, postcolonialism, world ecology and transnational feminism

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2500 words	1	2	3	4
2500 words	1	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Wk 1: Intro Lecture

Wk 2: The End of Postcolonial Studies?

Parry, Benita. "The Institutionalisation of Postcolonial Studies." In the Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies, edited by Neil Lazarus, 66-80. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2004

Terry Eagleton, 'Postcolonialism and "Postcolonialism"', Interventions 1 (1998): 24-26

Wk 3: The Beginning of World Literature:

Franco Moretti, "Conjectures on World Literature." New left Review (Jan-Feb 2000): 54-68

Short stories: Chinua Achebe 'Dead Men's Path' (1953) and Ngugi Wa' Thiongo 'The Martyr' (1976)

Wk 4: Translation and Circulation

Extract from David Damrosch, What is World Literature? (2003)

Extract from T.E. Lawrence's Seven Pillars of Wisdom (1922/2003)

Wk 5: World Systems I

Extract from Immanuel Wallerstein, World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction (2004)

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (1966)

Wk 6: *World System II*
 Casanova, Pascale. "Literature as a World." *New Left Review* 31 (Jan-Feb 2005): 71-90
 Toni Morrison, *A Mercy* (2008)

Wk 7: *Reading Week*

Wk 8: *Eco-Critical World Literature I*
 Sherae Deckard, 'Editorial' *Green Letters: Studies in Eco-Criticism* 16.1 (2012): 5014
 Poem: Martin Carter 'Listening to the Land'

Wk 9: *Eco-Critical World Literature II*
 Short Story: Pauline Melville 'Sparkling Bitch' from *The Migration of Ghosts* (2000)

Wk 10: *Gendering World Literature I*
 Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes" Revisited: *Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles* *Signs* (Winter 2003): 499-535
 Anita Desai, *Village by the Sea* (1982)

Wk 11: *Gendering World Literature II*
 Dambudzo Marechera, *House of Hunger* (1978)

Wk 12: *Commodification*
 Extract from Sarah Brouillette, *Postcolonial Writers in the Global Literary Marketplace* (Palgrave Macmillan 2007)
 Zulfikar Ghose, *The Triple Mirror of the Self* (1992)

Wk 13: *Concluding Lecture and Essay Consultations*

Learning Activities

Lectures; seminars; group work; independent study; on-line tutor support.

Notes

The level six course asks how we might conceive of the term 'world literature'? Arranged around the themes of capitalism, ecology and gender, it considers a range of literary texts that address local conditions and literary traditions, but have been circulated via a global readership and marketplace. Combining these with short theoretical works, the module encourages students to examine the ways in which literary material registers the dialectic between local context and global change. Over the duration of the module, debates in the area of world literature will be addressed, along with the related fields of postcolonialism, world ecology and transnational feminism. Rather than offering a survey of world literature, it instead treats a select body of work from Africa, the Caribbean, India and America as case studies, allowing the following questions to be asked: what it means to read texts in the 'world-language' of English; how literary forms and strategies 'travel'; what are the potentials and limitations of comparative analysis; and how we might think of texts not only in relation to nations but also in relation to world systems.