

English 292
Special Topics in Literature:
Modern World Literature
Winter 2004

Instructor: Thom Bland

Email: bland@camosun.bc.ca

Electronic Version of Outline and other links:

<http://deserv1.camosun.bc.ca:8950/webct/public/home.pl>

Office: Paul 335 Phone: 370-3359 (24 Hours)

Office hours: Monday 11:30-14:30 Tuesday 10:00-12:30 Wednesday 11:30-14:30
Thursday 10:00-12:30 or by appointment

Texts: *The Norton Anthology of World Literature: Self and Other in Global Context*
VOLUME F

The College Style Sheet, Furberg and Hopkins, 5th Edition

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Sijie Dai

Disgrace by J. M. Coetzee

Calendar Description:

The student will become familiar with major themes in important modes of literature or in works by major authors. Topics will vary each semester. Evaluation will be through essays and exams. (T-pending)

Prerequisites: ENGL 160 or 164.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you should

-know something of the modern literature of China, Japan, India (specifically the literature of Bengal), Ireland, Germany, France, Egypt, Chile, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, and Botswana—and probably a few I have forgotten.

-know something of how the history and social factors in the above countries influence the literature of that area.

When reading this literature, you should

- develop and communicate responses and interpretations
- analyze themes;
- develop an informed critical response.

In writing about literature, students will be expected to explain, support, and illustrate points in essays by

- using appropriate language;
- comparing pieces of literature in English;
- documenting sources using current MLA bibliographic style

Evaluation and Workload:

First essay	Feb 23	25
Mid-term Exam	Feb 25	20
Second essay	Apr 11	30
Participation and Seminars	(continuous)	25
Journal	(continuous)	10
Final Exam	(Exam Week)	<u>30</u>
	Total	140

Due Dates: All work is due on the dates specified. 10% will be deducted for **EACH** of the first two days a paper is late. (Total = -20%) After this period, the work will not be accepted. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

Essay Format: Please follow the examples and advice presented in *The College Style Sheet* or other MLA style guide; do not submit work in folders.

Attendance: It is impossible to pass this course without at least 80% attendance. **Note that this has a direct and significant influence on your participation grade.**

Plagiarism: This is putting someone else's writings (or ideas) into your work and not saying where you got these materials. You thereby imply that the other person's work is your own. This is a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly.

Evaluation Guide: As you can see, this does not match the College's grading system. However, I hope it will give you a general idea about my expectations and show you how these translate into rough grade equivalencies.

- F Lack of clear expression makes failure automatic. Subject being discussed is obviously not understood or is obviously inaccurately presented.
- D Several errors in spelling, punctuation, or difficult language expressions. Subject not thoroughly discussed and/or thoroughly understood.
- C Occasional weakness in expression. The basic material is obviously understood, but the sentences are not varied and consistently simple.

- C+ Very few mechanical errors. The basic material is understood. Some attempt at sentence variety and original expression. Not much creative imagination is involved in trying to put the subject into a new light.
- B No errors in expression are present; that is, all is very clear. Subject is thoroughly studied and understood. Some degree of originality is involved in the unified fashion.
- A The kind of work that might be expected at the next level up. Complete and clear understanding with a high degree of originality. Logical, clear development; no mechanical errors.

My Philosophy: your academic well being is one of my responsibilities. If you have ANY academic problems during your studies at Camosun College, come and see me. If I cannot help you myself, I will direct you to people who can.

Camosun College's Percentages and Letter Grade Equivalents:

A+	95 - 100	B-	70 - 74
A	90 - 94	C+	65 - 69
A-	85 - 89	C	60 - 64
B+	80 - 84	D	50 - 59
B	75 - 79	F	0 - 49

A Few Notes About Your Journal: Perhaps the best place to start is to say what the journal is not. It is NOT a set of class notes, a record of homework assignments, or a diary of your personal activities. It is a collection of your reactions to the literature you have been reading and discussing in class. It is a place to explore your questions and ideas without the worry of proper form. Regular use of your journal will help you get more from your classes and supply helpful ideas for your essays. Get into the habit of writing in your journal daily and write about the material on the reading list BEFORE and AFTER you come to class. I will be going over some techniques that will help you with this writing. If you go to a play, read a novel, or see a movie that you feel is relevant to this particular course write about in your journal. I will collect these journals on a regular basis—not necessarily weekly. Please have your journal ready for submission on the first day of class each week; if I take it in that week, I will read them and then return them during the second class of the same week. Journals not handed in at the requested times will receive a grade of zero.

Participation: Note that **EACH** of you will be presenting an individual work to your classmates. Usually you will have a partner or two in this endeavour—but not always.

In general, you are not expected to make constantly brilliant, insightful remarks in every class (although this is allowed); you are merely asked to think about and react to what is going on around you in the classroom. Some people may be a little reluctant to speak out in class. In this case, I count your questions and comments **OUTSIDE** of class as an indication of your participation. Your **ATTENDANCE** has a **DIRECT** influence on this grade as well. Note that **EVERYONE** will be presenting an individual work.

Exams: The midterm exam will cover all of the material discussed to date and the final exam will cover all of the works; however, the greatest emphasis will be on the last half of the course. If you are the kind of person who likes numbers here are some: the final will have a weight of approximately 70% post midterm and 30% pre midterm. The final exam itself will be written during the exam week. Both the midterm and the final may include short essays, recognition and short answer questions.

Tentative Reading List—note that some items may be added and some deleted. It depends upon available time

Writer Page Number

Tagore	1693
Lu Xun	1929
Kafka	1999
Jun'ichiro	2049
Yasunari	2342
Al-Hakim	2277
Brecht	2213
Borges	2414
Neruda	2442
Beckett	2459
Mahfouz	2531
Nobou	2585
Solzhenitsyn	2696
Lessing	2726
Borowski	2773
Achebe	2860
Desai	3102
Zhang	2737

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Sijie Dai

Disgrace by J. M. Coetzee