



School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
ENGL 290
Special Topics in Literature 1
Quarter or Semester/Year

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Raj Mehta		
(b)	Office Hours:	Mon, Wed 12:00-1:00 (Interurban); Tue, Thu 1:30-2:30		
(c)	Location:	Paul 318; Interurban CC 119A		
(d)	Phone:	3328	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	mehta@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:	D2L Shell		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

When reading literature, students will be encouraged to make connections and evaluate works that clearly represent an overview of the topic under discussion. Works will normally represent a variety of genres such as short stories, poetry, drama and the novel. In cases where the topic focuses on one genre, works will represent varied aspects of that genre and/or illustrate the development of a particular author or literary movement(s). Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze literature or other media such as film for elements such as theme, structure and rhetorical devices according to established critical criteria.
2. Evaluate works for component elements that clearly represent a literary movement, author, medium or style.

When discussing literature, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of the works using a variety of critical methods and resources. Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the socio-historical context of the works and relate the works to others as part of a literary continuum.
2. Identify and account for recurring themes in the spectrum of works evaluated in the course.
3. Compare and contrast the stylistic elements of various works by one or more authors within the context of the topic discussed.
4. Where applicable, evaluate the importance of literary theory in both the creation and interpretation of texts.

When writing about literature, students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the above issues and to explain, support and illustrate their interpretations of literature in essays and a final exam. Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Support their work with relevant textual evidence.
2. Document sources using current MLA conventions.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

Post colonialism – A Very Short Introduction – Robert Young

Disgrace – J. M. Coetzee

Cities of Salt– Abdelrahman Munif

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Running in the Family - Michael Ondaatje

(b) Other

4. Course Content and Schedule

(This section can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

The literature of countries once former colonies of European powers like Britain, France and Spain is an engaging and expanding field of study. This course introduces students to the complex issues surrounding identity, race, gender, language and power as represented in perspectives from Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. Our focus will be on diverse places and cultures in both literature and film. Discussions will focus on not only historical situations, but also the conventions used to express the unique stories we'll explore. The course will end with an exploration of globalization's effects on and implications for contemporary literature

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

(a) Assignments

Mid-Term Test: 25%

This covers in-class discussions, my lectures and material from the Young text. It is presumed that you are present and have good notes! The test date will be announced in class.

Film Response: 25%

A close 'reading' of one of the films we view. Such an essay need not include outside research. The essay should demonstrate a coherent interpretation of the movie - not mere explication of plot. Your reading may delve into an aspect of the film such as acting, direction, editing, costume design, set design, photography, background music, etc., but should concentrate on a significant postcolonial theme in the film (gender, migration, displacement, hybridity, exoticism, etc.). The film you choose to review is your choice. Films examined this term will include: *The Constant Gardener* (Fernando Mereilles), *Monsoon Wedding* (Mira Nair), *My Son the Fanatic* (Hanif Kureishi), *Lost in Translation* (Sophia Coppola), and *Disgrace* (Steve Jacobs). Length: 3-4 pages.

Presentation: 25%

Students will be paired up into presentation groups. Students are free to explore and present on a topic that interests them. No formal material need be handed in for this project. I'll try to provide some class time for this, but some coordination of effort outside of class time will be required.

Length: 15-20 minutes.

End of Term Essay: 25%

A research-oriented essay that will present an interpretive argument using at least one of the works of literature we have covered in class. The essay should involve close reading (as with the film response), but also demonstrate some formal research and use of references. You may compare

two or more works, bring in cultural or historical context to shed light on a work, or use a theoretical lens to clarify the meaning of a work for example. Length: 6-8 pages, due last day of class.

I only issue letter grades for assignments. General grading guidelines for essays are listed below.

A word about grading standards: Merely fulfilling the terms of an assignment, and doing so in a competent, reasonable manner is generally only enough for a grade in the B- range. 'A' grades will only be awarded when work demonstrates notable creativity, insight and excellence. Marks will be based on organization, quality of ideas and support, style and grammar, according to the following criteria:

- A Range (85 - 100%) Superior level of achievement - worth consulting.
 exceptional insight into material or topic detailed, significant discussion
 effective organization for paper's purpose fluent, error-free expression
- B Range (70 - 84%) High level of achievement - worth keeping.
 competent treatment of material or topic but less originality or perception than for A
 full but not so detailed discussion as for A
 organization contributing to sense but remaining workmanlike
expression free of errors
- C+ (65 - 69%) More than satisfactory level of achievement - worth doing.
 sound content, reasonably well organized
 clear but somewhat mechanical organization
 expression generally free of errors that confuse sense
 may display content at the B or even A level but with some serious mechanical errors
- C (60 - 64%) Sufficient level of achievement to proceed with next level – readable.
 acceptable but commonplace content adequately supported
 mechanical but generally coherent organization
 adequate but sometimes confusing expression
- D (50 - 59%) Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted - worth reworking.
 limited or misleading content with inadequate or inappropriate support
 incomplete or confusing organization
 frequent errors in expression that confuse sense
- F (Below 50%) Minimum level not achieved – poor effort.
 inadequate or inaccurate content
 incoherent organization
 many errors in expression
 basically, no apparent effort made in the paper at all

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

It is the student's responsibility to keep informed of any announcements, syllabus adjustments or policy changes made during scheduled classes.

Participation:

-It is important that you attend in order to peer edit and contribute to class discussions.. You are responsible for material you miss if you are absent. I do not respond to "what did I miss" queries via email.

Assignments:

-All assignments are due according to the dates & times specified. It is the student's responsibility to know the due dates – and any date changes announced in-class. Late work will not be accepted. If work is missed without due (medical) cause, a student receives a grade of 0 for that assignment.

-Do not e-mail assignments. Assignments are due in class – and at the beginning of class unless otherwise indicated in class. I generally do not welcome lateness and any assignment handed in once class has begun will not be accepted.

-Please keep a copy of all work - including material you hand in - until final marks have been posted.

Email Policy:

While I make every effort to check email regularly, I would appreciate at least 48 hours to respond to questions/problems. Do not leave important questions/concerns till the last moment.

Reading Others' Work:

Regularly in this class you can expect others to read your writing and you to read theirs. Doing so will enrich the course and help us learn from each other. I expect everyone to be respectful of their classmate's writing, to take it seriously, to offer suggestions for revision in a constructive manner.

Academic Honesty:

- Plagiarism is a serious offence. All offences will be reported and will result in a failing grade for the course. **Students are assumed to be familiar with the "Academic Policies and Procedures" in the Camosun Calendar.**