



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 378-01

Global Literatures: Encountering Cultural Others

WINTER 2022

Instructor	Shaobo Xie
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Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Wed. 13:00-14:00 or by appointment. Office: SS 1012

Course description:

This course is a comparative overview of literature from a range of regions around the world. In an increasingly globalized world, it is of necessity to learn to understand and respect different ways of being human. The course introduces students to various geographical, cultural, and racial/ethnic Others with a view to opening up new perspectives on the stereotypically known. Students will be exploring how different cultures map the phenomenal world differently and how the universal is articulated in culture-specific ways. As well, they will be exploring why and how one major social function of literature is to create a shift in our attitude toward cultural Others.

The course format will be a mixture of lectures, class conversations, and group discussions and presentations. Each group will present a critical reading of one of the novels included in the course syllabus. You will write a research paper of approximately 2500 words. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. To ensure you are on the right track, you should submit an essay proposal two weeks prior to the due date.

Texts:

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*

Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*

Suki Kim, *The Interpreter*

Jean-François Lyotard, "The Other's Rights"

Judith Butler, "Restaging the Universal"

Maria Tymoczko, "Translation, Ethics and Ideology in a Violent Globalizing World"

Assignments and Evaluation:

Review essay	20%
Critical essay	35%
Class participation	10%
Group presentation	15%
Take-home examination	20%

There is no Registrar-scheduled exam in this course.

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities, interaction with classmates, and contribution to advancing debate in the classroom.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Except in cases of illness or crisis, late papers will be penalized with the loss of a fraction of a grade (a B to a B-) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

The group work grade is designed to encourage students to take group work seriously. All members of a group will receive the same grade, except for students absent when the group work assignment is prepared or presented, who will receive an F. Each group will be required to submit a written version of the presentation.

Students are required to submit written assignments electronically. There are D2L dropbox folders for various assignments.

All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material, essay assignments, or group projects, you need to make an appointment to see me during my office hours.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

1. Build initial familiarity with global literature.
2. Demonstrate a good understanding of how literature, as Spivak has noted, "train the imagination into knowing ourselves differently, and knowing the world differently," and how it cultivates our appreciation and respect for ethnic/cultural otherness.

3. Understand how different cultures map the phenomenal world differently and no culture is superior to others.
4. Understand why and how the universal is articulated in culture-specific ways.
5. Acquire their initial capacity to decolonize culture, literature, and habits of mind.
6. Build a conceptual toolbox for critically examining and unmasking Eurocentric views and (neo)colonialist structures of feeling and reference underpinning literary texts.

Learning Resources:

Include any required textbooks and/or readings. Specify if a link to any required textbooks and/or readings will be provided in the course D2L site. Review copyright information for all resources included (see <https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>) and ensure all readings and other electronic resources have been reviewed for copyright compliance by contacting copyright@ucalgary.ca prior to the start of term.

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Use of Internet and electronic Communication Devices in Class:

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University’s Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	96% or above	4.0
A	90-95%	4.0
A-	85-89%	3.7
B+	80-84%	3.3
B	75-79%	3.0
B-	70-74%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade (e.g., to receive an A- a student will have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course)

- Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
 - Or, for graduate courses: please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html>
- There is no D- grade.

Academic Integrity:

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an [Application of Deferment of Term Work](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

Grade appeals:

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support:

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)**Student Academic Accommodations:**

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

Program Advising and Student Information Resources is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

Instructor's Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Research Ethics [delete section if not applicable]

- If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.
- If students are going to be used as research subjects or expected to conduct research (such as interviews), a statement about this expectation must be included. Please note

that if you plan to have students conduct research for class, you must get ethics approval for the course.

Sexual violence policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Other important information:

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.