

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 605.18-01

Winter 2015

**Studies in National or International Literatures
“Postcolonial Rewriting(s) of Imperial Texts”
for Victor Ramraj**

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Office hours: Mondays 12-1pm by arrangement; Fridays 3-4pm

Homepage/course website: d2l.ucalgary.ca

Course description: Victor Ramraj’s original description for this course read: *This course focuses on a selection of major British and postcolonial literary texts (primarily novels, with some short stories and poems), approaching the postcolonial texts as rewritings, adaptations, or appropriations of the British texts. Taking our lead from theorists on rewritings of pretexts – such as Edward Said (“original inscription to parallel script”), Homi Bhabha (“camouflage mimicry”), Linda Hutcheon (“parody is repetition with difference”), and Harold Bloom (“anxieties of indebtedness”) – we shall examine closely the canonized pretexts and several of their duplications, imitations, parodies, parallels, and interpellations.* The description was followed by pairings of canonical imperial texts and postcolonial rewritings/responses, many of them now equally canonical. The current version of the course, like many of the originally-suggested postcolonial texts, is in part homage, acknowledgment of debt and lineage, as well as interrogation, interpellation, query and inquiry into the (colonial) limitations of the notions of “rewriting”, of “text”, of the literary, of mimicry, of Britishness and Englishness (especially the notion of literary study in English). We will use as course texts some of the foundational material in postcolonial, race, and indigenous studies, starting with an inquiry into pedagogy. Students will then construct their own syllabi of literary (and other kinds of) texts based on their own research interests and on suggested groupings of texts and intertexts.

Texts and readings: *these texts have been ordered for the bookstore in limited quantities. The links below take you to online bookstores. Consult the D2L course website for articles and suggested text “clusters,” including Dr. Ramraj’s.*

Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin, *Postcolonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (2013 edition).

<http://goo.gl/c6S6lD>

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*. <http://goo.gl/7g4Htt>

Lotte Hughes, *The No-Nonsense Guide to Indigenous Peoples*, 2nd edition. <http://goo.gl/03vjNB>

Kino-nda-niimi Collective, *The Winter We Danced: Voices from the Past, the Future, and the Idle No More Movement*.

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. (Recommended text. New edition being released in 2015.) <http://goo.gl/o945pk>

Victor Ramraj, ed. *A Concert of Voices*. <http://goo.gl/AUfSoE> (first edition is fine; be aware of the differences)

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies* (2nd edition). <http://goo.gl/8ge4cY>

Assignments and Evaluation:

Learning/research log and journal	40%
Participation (online and in class)	20%
Portfolio	40%
End-of-term meeting with Aruna	(ungraded but required)

- You must complete **all** assignments to receive a passing grade on the course.
- There is no final examination in this course. As part of your portfolio, you may opt to do a take-home examination or an oral examination/discussion.
- You may submit most of your assignments electronically, but **not** by e-mail. Submit them through the D2L dropbox, and according to instructions provided. Otherwise, I will return them.
- Please make every effort to submit assignments through D2L or hand them in directly. If you are submitting something in print and cannot get it to me, take it to SS1152 and ask the staff to ensure that I receive it. Your assignment will be dealt with appropriately. E-mail me to tell me that you have handed in your assignment. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.
- Guidelines for and discussion about all assignments and tasks will be provided on D2L, much of it from the beginning of term. Please read these carefully and ask lots of questions if they are not clear. I use these assignment criteria, largely, for assessment. Deadlines and extension policies are also posted on D2L. Thoroughly familiarize yourself with them.
- You may submit to me an altered version of this grade breakdown at the end of term. You may not, however, subtract more than 5% from any component of the course or add 10% to any component (for example, you could take 5% from your participation and portfolio grades, if they were lower, and add them to your log grade, if it were higher). Your final breakdown, and any revisions to it, must be submitted in writing, and signed. If you do not submit a breakdown of assignments, each component of the course will be weighted as listed above.

A few additional words on...

Participation

- The most important aspect of the course with obvious relevance to the topic is **online** and **class** participation. We will hold online discussions and all course material, texts, and lines of inquiry are updated regularly. *It is crucial that you are willing to work with both the in-class (face-to-face) and the online aspects of the course: they are both integral to the experience of the course.* Check into D2L and our discussions often. All announcements, reminders about the class, guest speakers, interviews, etc. are posted there. The course topic requires attendance and attention. For seminar discussion, this means that you: prepare by reading, thinking and being attentive, engage in class and

group discussions, *keep your counsel* if you are comfortable speaking and *take some risks* learning how to if you are not, help out others in need, *keep a record* of group discussions and processes (perhaps the most difficult part of group work), your interaction with instructor and colleagues both inside *and outside* of class, as well as your commitment to the course, your colleagues and the work throughout the term (the learning log is the record for all of these processes and reflections). Similarly, in online discussion, you will need to make an effort to post, to comment and to brave the waters of what feels like information overload. If you are not familiar with how blogs, social media, D2L and the like work, make an appointment to talk to me in the first two weeks of term.

- The most crucial aspect of online participation will be the class discussion forum and our research site: all class members will be contributing to this class research project as part of participation in the course.
- Although there are justifiable reasons not to attend class, and you do not have to explain these, I expect you to inform both me and all of your group members *ahead of time*, preferably by e-mail, if you are not going to be in class. This aspect of respect for others is critical for me in assessing participation.
- I expect that you will always be asking questions, even when you would rather not. *Curiosity* and *inquiry* are the foundation of this course, as both are essential to critical thinking and to research.

Learning/research log/journal

- With this particular method of learning and particularly of assignment assessment, it is crucial that you keep a record throughout the term of any contributions you have made (extra work done for class, extra group meetings, helping other students in class with course material, D2L and technology, etc.), so that you can submit an accurate account of your participation throughout the term, and so that you can document the work you may wish to include towards your portfolio or other assignments. To this end, you will keep a detailed learning log, which will also record your research processes, ongoing reflections, and self-critiques about what you are thinking and learning.

Portfolio

- Is made up of a number of projects or tasks that you engage in throughout the term. Some of these will be specific tasks suggested by me or by other members of the class, and will involve lines of inquiry (these will accumulate on D2L).
- You will also come up with a project or projects of your own, creative or critical (or both) to include in your portfolio.
- The *collaborative project* is a group project on a course-related topic, and is part of your portfolio. I strongly suggest that groups present to the class on their project.
- Please see D2L for a list of suggested portfolio projects which can range from the traditional (annotated bibliographies, essays, reviews, seminars, presentations), to the creative (writing, reflective, art work), to the community-based (academic or otherwise). Obviously, your projects can be hybrid as well.
- Your portfolio *as a whole* must have a *collaborative* element, a strong *research* focus (however you define that), and your portfolio projects must also have clear rationales.
- Remember to include in your portfolio all work attempted for the course, and to include a self-evaluation.

The meeting

- After you have handed in all course work, you will come in to chat with me about the course, your grades, and your assignments. This is a course requirement.

Grading system:

I only use letter grades on assignments. These are the grade ranges and numeric values I use in my grading program when converting letters to percentages. Any individual assignment letter grade is converted to the numeric mean (for example, an A- would convert to 82). Your final mark is determined by the grade range the total of your assignment scores fall within (for example, a final score total of 85.2 would result in a final grade of A). I like borderline grades such as A/A- (89.5). If your final grade falls on the numeric borderline between two grade ranges, I round up.

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A-	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B-	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C-	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

For graduate courses, please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-1.html>. *Note that a B- on a graduate course is considered a “minimum pass.”*

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, I use this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>. Please note that the

course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca
Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that "mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision."

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

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 Deferral of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.