

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	<u>HL4038 Advanced Studies in Postcolonial Literature</u> Category B (World Literature)
Academic Unit	:	4
Pre-requisite	:	HL101

Course Description

This course examines the concatenation between the designations “non-naturalism/irrealism” and “postcolonial.” How does the former (principally the gothic and related/cognate styles including indigenous horror and myth) dovetail with postcolonial concerns such as the imperative to contest Eurocentrism, affirm diversity/alterity and promote cultural formation/plasticity? We begin with two “canonic” works that reorient the Gothic topoi for postcolonial purposes (Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Tayeb Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*) and move on to three Southeast Asian works that similarly utilize elements of the genre to adumbrate the return of the repressed in the form of “History.” Among other things, we explore how writers use the form to question dominant scripts that foster patriarchy, marginalization, and hegemony.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will read important texts in the area and utilize close reading skills to discuss the issues raised.
2. Students will engage with and debate the following topics:
 - General features of postcolonial writing using non-naturalistic modes
 - Search for idiom and imagery appropriate to Southeast Asian locale
 - “Postcolonial gothic”
 - Self-exoticism and orientalism

Content

Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	Misc
01	Introduction (17 Jan)		

02	Wide Sargasso Sea		
03	Wide Sargasso Sea		
04	Season of Migration to the North		
05	Season of Migration to the North		
06	Ilustrado		
07	Ilustrado		
	RECESS [3 to 7 March]		
08	Essay Consultation		We will meet on Teams
09	Fish-Hair Woman		
10	Fish-Hair Woman		
11	Presentations		
12	Summary		
13	Public Holiday (18 April)		

Learning Outcome

Students will obtain a grounding in the sub-field as well as knowledge of its recurrent concerns and debates.

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

Essay Assignment	– 25%
Presentation and participation	– 15%
Exam	– <u>60%</u>
Total	– <u>100%</u>

The required word count for the essay assignment is around 2,000 words. Both soft and hard copy submissions are required for the essay assignment. **The soft copy MUST be in Word format.**

NB: Students are NOT ALLOWED to use Generative AI (artificial intelligence) platforms when writing their assessments.

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)
2. Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (Trans. by Denys Johnson-Davies) (1966/1969)
3. Miguel Syjuco, *Ilustrado: A Novel* (2008)
4. Merlinda Bobis, *Fish-Hair Woman* (2012)

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.