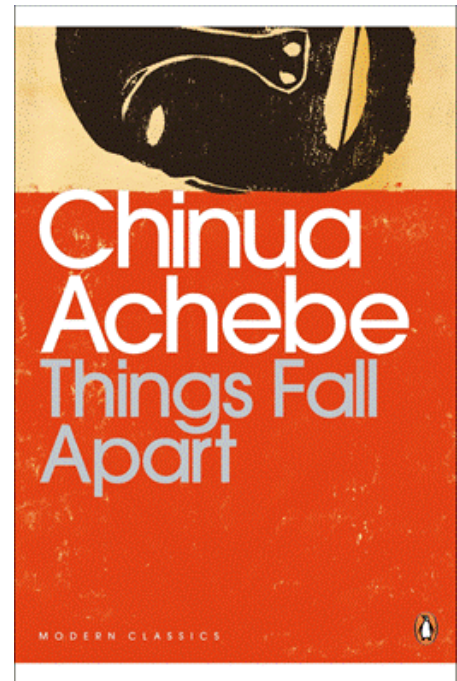


# **HL2032: African Literature**

This module explores a diverse range of African literatures – including works from Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa. It will offer an historical account of the emergence and development of these national literatures, while also focusing on some of the major social and political issues they address. Of particular interest will be the transformative encounter with colonial modernity, the profound socioeconomic consequences of apartheid, and the various challenges faced by the postcolonial nation-state. We will also be discussing the significance of the oral tradition in African literature, and the controversy surrounding its use of English, the language of the colonizer. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include an analysis of the South African film *Tsotsi*, and will introduce students to a number of important theoretical concepts within the field of postcolonial studies.



## **Primary Sources**

### FICTION

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Anchor 1994)  
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (Vintage 2000)  
Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* (Anchor 1992)  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat* (Penguin 2002)  
Ben Okri, *Selected Stories* (Available on NTU Learn)

### FILM

*Tsotsi* (dir. Gavin Hood; 2005)

## **Secondary Sources**

Simon Gikandi, *Reading the African Novel*  
Gareth Griffiths, *African Literatures in English: East and West*  
Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson (ed.), *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*

## Assessment

Class participation	10%
Coursework essay	40% (Due 20 March)
Examination	50%

NOTE – The use of generative AI is not permitted on this course.

## Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott  
HSS-03-60  
[btscott@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:btscott@ntu.edu.sg)

Week	Topics	Readings
<b>1</b> 15 Jan	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>2</b> 22 Jan	<b>Colonial Encounters I</b>	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
<b>3</b> 29 Jan	<b>Colonial Encounters II</b>	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
<b>4</b> 5 Feb	<b>Tradition and Modernity I</b>	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Midaq Alley</i>
<b>5</b> 19 Feb	<b>Tradition and Modernity II</b>	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Midaq Alley</i>
<b>6</b> 26 Feb	<b>Independence I</b>	Ngugi wa Thiong'o, <i>A Grain of Wheat</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Recess</b>	
<b>8</b> 11 March	<b>Independence II</b>	Ngugi wa Thiong'o, <i>A Grain of Wheat</i>
<b>9</b> 18 March	<b>Postcolonial Narratives I</b>	Ben Okri, 'In the Shadow of War,' 'In the City of Red Dust,' 'When the Lights Return'
<b>10</b> 25 March	<b>Postcolonial Narratives II</b>	FILM: <i>Tsotsi</i>
<b>11</b> 1 April	<b>Truth and Reconciliation I</b>	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
<b>12</b> 8 April	<b>Truth and Reconciliation II</b>	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
<b>13</b> 15 April	<b>Conclusion/Revision</b>	