



**PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS
SAS - SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

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**SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
COURSE TITLE: LITERATURE OF MIGRATION
COURSE CODE: LACLPC335**

3 Semester Credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course explores the theme of migration in contemporary postcolonial literature. The focus will be on both fictional and non-fictional modes of transcribing the experience of dislocation. A special emphasis will be placed on the role played by literary tradition in the writer's shaping of personal identity; the first lessons will provide students with the basic theoretical tools to help them discuss a literary text (especially autobiographical writings). Experimentation of form as well as significant innovations in content will be covered with in detail. Students will also be introduced to the basic historical events and social transformations of such countries as India, Pakistan, South Africa, and Algeria in order to better understand past and contemporary interactions between the ex-colonies of ex-colonial powers such as Britain and France. Readings will include works by J.M. Coetzee, Amara Lakhous, Hanif Kureishi, Jhumpa Lahiri, Azouz Begag, Salman Rushdie, and Edward W. Said.

2. OBJECTIVES

Students will be provided with the basic theoretical tools to help them discuss a literary text. They will become familiar with key notions of narrative theory and post-colonial studies. They will be able to determine whether a text is traditional or innovative, and how the immigrant experience proves to be fertile ground for literary experimentation. Students will be encouraged to form their own critical opinion on the works selected.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures and in-class discussions of the texts. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive activities which challenge

thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides.

5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

Required text books:

1) The following books are available at: "**Paperback Exchange Bookstore**", Via delle Oche 4/r

- J.M. Coetzee, *Youth*
- Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*
- Amara Lakhous, *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*
- Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

2) Selected chapters (or stories) from the following texts will be available as PDF documents on the MyFua course page:

- Azouz Begag, *Ethnicity & Equality*
- Jhumpa Lahiri, *In Other Words*
- Salman Rushdie, *East, West*

FURTHER READINGS

(Books available in the FUA library)

- Bill Ashcroft, *Post-Colonial Transformation*, London, Routledge, 2001
- Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, *Post-Colonial Studies - The Key Concepts*, London, Routledge, 2000
- Seymour Chatman, *Story and discourse: narrative structure in fiction and film*, Ithaca, London, 1980
- P.J. Eakin, *How Our Lives Become Stories - Making Selves*, London, Cornell University Press, 1999
- Ashcroft, G. Griffiths, H. Tiffin, *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Postcolonial Literature*, London and New York, Routledge, 1995
- Caroline Brettell & James Frank Hollifield eds., *Migration Theory: Talking across the Disciplines*, NU, 2000
- Alastair Fowler, *Kinds of Literature - An Introduction to the Theory of Genres and Modes*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1982
- S. Lavie, T. Swedenburg, *Displacement, Diaspora, and Geographies of Identity*, Durham, London, Duke University Press, 1996
- Edward W. Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, NY, 1994
- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Penguin, 2003
- Justin D. Edwards, *Postcolonial Literature (A Readers' Guide to Essential Criticism)*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. The library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also use additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

Biblioteca delle Oblate

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:
www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information:
www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

This course does not include a field learning activity.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover all course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The instructor will communicate the exact amount on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance
10% Home assignments and class participation
15% Oral presentation
15% Final Paper
25% Midterm Exam
25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence**, the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence**, the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

11. EXAMS–PAPERS – PROJECTS

Attendance and participation

Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work and in-class activities, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed.

Home Assignments

Home assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topic. Students will be asked to: answer a list of questions or write their personal reflections about the works that will be discussed during the semester.

Students are expected to come to class with their answers and reflections to be shared with the other students during class discussion.

Paper

The instructor will provide you with specific information concerning the paper topic and paper length. Make sure your paper conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your paper must include quotations and/or citations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. Your paper must be properly referenced and must include a bibliography.

Presentation

The instructor will provide you with specific information concerning the presentation topic. Please, read the following information carefully:

Guidelines

You must support your presentation with carefully selected examples that illustrate, support, and extend your analysis. Make sure your presentation conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your presentation must include citations from scholarly books, journals, and articles.

Additional time provided for questions and answers (NB questions will be asked by both the instructor AND the participants)

Visual aid: PowerPoint slides

What you need to turn in after your presentation

- The PowerPoint Presentation
- Any notes used at the time of delivering the presentation (notes must be in the form of bullet points and include key words and brief sentences, DO NOT read out entire paragraphs or your presentation will be marked down)

Evaluation

Your presentation will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Presentation skills (delivery speed, eye contact, clarity, audibility, tone);
- Content (sets out relevant issues, explains key terms, confident with material, aids understanding);
- Structure (logical, easy to follow, provides headings, each section relates to overall purpose);
- Use of visual aids (uses handout or other visual aids, relevant to content);
- Response to questions (willing to answer questions, actively seeking questions).

Exams

The Mid-term exam will take place on Lesson 7 whilst the Final Exam will take place on week 15. Note, **the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason**, so please organize your personal activities accordingly.

Format (for both exams): short definitions and open questions relating to the authors, content and style of the texts discussed in class.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course overview, content, structure, assessment and expectations. Basic elements of narrative theory. History of colonialism, key historical information. Overview of postcolonial theory and criticism, definitions and debates. Focus on key thinkers, namely: Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak and Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature (A Readers' Guide to Essential Criticism)</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1, "Postcoloniality"

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to Jhumpa Lahiri. Key events in the history of India and Pakistan. Discussion of selected short stories from <i>Interpreter of Maladies</i> (first part)
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 2, "Difference"

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Discussion of selected short stories from <i>Interpreter of Maladies</i> (second part)
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 3, "Language"

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Discussion of selected chapters from <i>In Other Words</i> (first part)
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 4, "Orality"

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Discussion of selected chapters from <i>In Other Words</i> (second part)
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 5, "Rewriting"

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to J.M. Coetzee. Key events in the history of South Africa. Discussion of the novel <i>Youth</i>
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 6, "Violence"

Lesson 7	
	Midterm Exam

Lesson 8	
	Academic break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to Hanif Kureishi. Key concepts of Eastern religions and philosophies. Discussion of the novel <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> (first part)
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 7, "Travel"

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Discussion of the novel <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> (second part) Screening of some parts of the BBC TV serial <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 8, "Maps"

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to Azouz Begag. Key events in the history of Algeria. Discussion of selected chapters from <i>Ethnicity and Equality</i>
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 9, "Gender"

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to Amara Lakhous and immigration in Italy. Discussion of the novel <i>Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio</i>
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 10, "Queer"

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Screening and discussion of the movie "Terraferma" (2011) by Italian director Emanuele Crialese
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 12, "Memory"

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Introduction to Salman Rushdie. Discussion of selected short stories from <i>East, West</i>
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Critical Reading	<i>Postcolonial Literature</i> , Chapter 14, "Diaspora"

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
	Final exam