

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	<u>HL3007 Postcolonial Literature</u> Category D (World Literature)
Academic Unit	:	4/3 AU
Pre-requisite	:	HL101

Course Description

The field of postcolonial literary studies tends to focus on the concerns of constituencies that are marginalised in the metropolis. Ideas concerning diaspora, rupture, and hybridity dominate this discussion. This module examines such issues and also expands the discussion by surveying important writers from nearby countries (Indonesia, and the Philippines). Among other things, the existential issues raised by urbanisation and rapid industrial development will be addressed, together with the question of how writers fashion a usable past from disparate material, as well as the position of art in social class struggle. Students will be encouraged to formulate a first-cut analysis of where they place themselves with regards to these issues and concerns.

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 *some* of the topics raised, viz.:
 - General features of postcolonial writing
 - Search for idiom and imagery appropriate to Southeast Asian locale
 - Challenges and attractions of primordialism
 - Alternative modernities
 - Multiculturalism and cosmopolitan identity; integrative pluralism versus enclavism
 - Social class formation and reproduction.
 - Self-exoticism and orientalism

Content

Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	Misc
01	Introduction		

02	This Earth of Mankind		
03	This Earth of Mankind		
04	Child of All Nations		
05	Child of All Nations		
06	The Pretenders		
07	The Pretenders		
	RECESS		
08	State of War		
09	State of War		
10	Ilustrado: A Novel		
11	Ilustrado: A Novel		
12	Summary		
13			

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:

One essay assignment of 2,000 words – 30%
Class presentation & participation — 20%
Exam ————— 50%

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. *This Earth of Mankind* – by Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Indonesia)
2. *Child Of All Nations* – by Pramoedya Ananta Toer – (Indonesia)
3. *The Pretenders* – by F. Sionil Jose (the Philippines)
4. *State of War* – by Ninotchka Rosca (the Philippines)
5. *Ilustrado: A Novel* – by Miguel Syjuco – (the Philippines)

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.