

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 and hybridity/syncretism dominate this discussion. This module examines such issues and also expands the discussion by surveying important writers from nearby formations (Indonesia and the Philippines). Among other things, the theoretical and socio-cultural issues raised by anti-colonial resistance 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
 - 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	Footsteps		
07	Footsteps		
	RECESS		
08	Essay Consultation (1 on 1)		
09	The Pretenders		
10	The Pretenders		
11	Sherds: A Novel		
12	Sherds: A Novel		
13	Summary		

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 1,900 words – 30%
Course participation ————— 10%
Exam ————— 60%

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – This Earth of Mankind
2. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – Child of All Nations
3. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – Footsteps
4. F. Sionil Jose – The Pretenders
5. F. Sionil Jose – Shards: A Novel

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.

NB

Please note that one or two of the books may be out of print. Please get them from a second-hand bookseller or internet retailer.