

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title : HL3007 Postcolonial Literature
Category D (World Literature)

Academic Unit : 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 a range of Southeast Asian contexts. Among other things, the theoretical and socio-cultural issues raised by anti-colonial resistance and decolonization will be addressed, together with the question of how writers fashion a usable past from disparate material, as well as issues of social justice and inclusiveness. 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.:
 - Contesting Eurocentrism/Decolonising the mind
 - Inclusive nationalitrian culture?
 - Search for idiom and imagery appropriate to Southeast Asian locale
 - Self-exoticism and orientalism
 - Globalization and literature

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	Spider Boys		
09	Spider Boys		
10	The River's Song		
11	The River's Song		
12	Essay Consultation		
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 2,000 words –	35%
Course presentation and participation –	15%
Exam	50%

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – This Earth of Mankind
2. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – Child of All Nations
3. F. Sionil Jose – The Pretenders
4. Ming Cher – Spider Boys
5. Suchen Christine Lim – The River's Song

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.