

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	<u>HL4038 Advanced Studies in Postcolonial Literature</u> Category D (World Literature)
Academic Unit	:	4
Pre-requisite	:	HL101

Course Description

This course examines the concatenation between the designations “non-naturalism/irrealism” and “postcolonial.” How does the former (principally the gothic and related/cognate styles including indigenous horror and myth) dovetail with postcolonial concerns such as the imperative to contest Eurocentrism, affirm diversity/alterity and promote cultural plasticity? We begin with two “canonic” works that reorient the Gothic topoi for postcolonial purposes (Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Tayeb Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*) and move on to three Southeast Asian works that similarly utilize elements of the genre to adumbrate the return of the repressed in the form of “History.” Among other things, we explore how writers use the form to question dominant scripts, and to contest patriarchy and essentialism.

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 the following topics:
 - General features of postcolonial writing using non-naturalistic modes
 - Search for idiom and imagery appropriate to Southeast Asian locale
 - “Postcolonial gothic”
 - Self-exoticism and orientalism

Content

Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	Misc
01	Introduction		

02	Wide Sargasso Sea		
03	Wide Sargasso Sea		
04	Season of Migration to the North		
05	Season of Migration to the North		
06	Ilustrado		
07	Ilustrado		
	RECESS		
08	Beauty is a Wound		
09	Beauty is a Wound		
10	Fish-Hair Woman		
11	Fish-Hair Woman		
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:

Term paper	– 40%
Participation	– 10%
E-exam	<u>-- 50%</u>
Total	<u>-- 100%</u>

The required word count for the term paper is around 2,200 words.

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
2. Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
3. Miguel Syjuco, *Ilustrado*
4. Eka Kurniawan, *Beauty is a Wound*
5. Merlinda Bobis, *Fish-Hair Woman*

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.