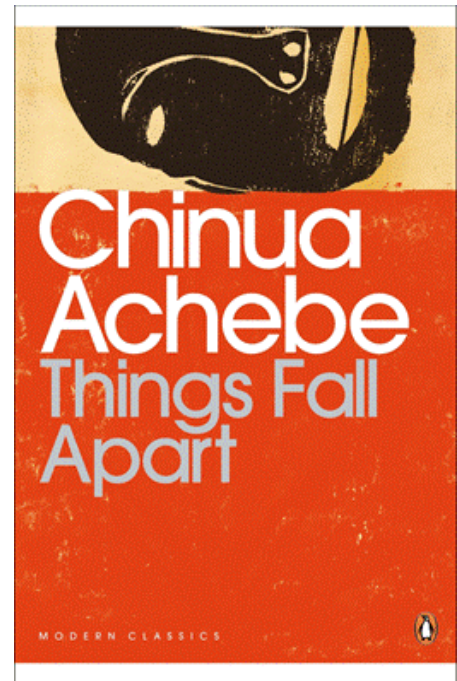


HL2032: African Literature

This module explores a diverse range of African literatures – including works from Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa. It will offer an historical account of the emergence and development of these national literatures, while also focusing on some of the major social and political issues they address. Of particular interest will be the transformative encounter with colonial modernity, the profound socioeconomic consequences of apartheid, and the various challenges faced by the postcolonial nation-state. We will also be discussing the significance of the oral tradition in African literature, and the controversy surrounding its use of English, the language of the colonizer. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include an analysis of the South African film *Tsotsi*, and will introduce students to a number of important theoretical concepts within the field of postcolonial studies.



Primary Sources

FICTION

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Anchor 1994)
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (Vintage 2000)
Naguib Mahfouz, *Midaq Alley* (Anchor 1992)
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat* (Penguin 2002)
Ben Okri, *Selected Stories* (Available on NTU Learn)

FILM

Tsotsi (dir. Gavin Hood; 2005)

Secondary Sources

Simon Gikandi, *Reading the African Novel*
Gareth Griffiths, *African Literatures in English: East and West*
Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson (ed.), *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*

Assessment

Class participation	10%
Coursework essay	40%
Examination	50%

Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott
HSS-03-60
btscott@ntu.edu.sg

Week	Topics	Readings
1 11 Jan	Introduction	
2 18 Jan	Colonial Encounters I	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
3 25 Jan	Colonial Encounters II	Chinua Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
4 1 Feb	Tradition and Modernity I	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Midaq Alley</i>
5 8 Feb	Tradition and Modernity II	Naguib Mahfouz, <i>Midaq Alley</i>
6 15 Feb	Independence I	Ngugi wa Thiong'o, <i>A Grain of Wheat</i>
7 22 Feb	Independence II	Ngugi wa Thiong'o, <i>A Grain of Wheat</i>
8	Recess	
9 8 March	Postcolonial Narratives I	Ben Okri, 'In the Shadow of War,' 'In the City of Red Dust,' 'When the Lights Return'
10 15 March	Postcolonial Narratives II	FILM: <i>Tsotsi</i>
11 22 March	Truth and Reconciliation I	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
12 29 March	Truth and Reconciliation II	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Disgrace</i>
13 5 April	Conclusion/Revision	