

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title : **HL3007 Postcolonial Literature**
(a.k.a. Global/World Anglophone Literature)

Category D (World Literature)

Academic Unit : 3 AU

Pre-requisite : HL1001

Course Description

The field of postcolonial studies tends to focus on the concerns of constituencies that are marginalised in the metropolis. This module examines such issues and also expands the discussion by surveying important writers from a range of Southeast Asian contexts, covering in particular Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. 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 nationalitarian 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	Breaking the Tongue		
05	Breaking the Tongue		
06	Parsetreeforestfire		
07	Essay Consultation		
	RECESS		
08	Parsetreeforestfire		First essay draft due after recess
09	Parsetreeforestfire		
10	Peer Review		Due date for peer review exercise based on first essay draft
11	The Pretenders		
12	The Pretenders		
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:

Essay assignment	40%
Course presentation & participation	10%
Peer review exercise	10%
Final Examination:	<u>40%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Pramoedya Ananta Toer – *This Earth of Mankind* (original title *Bumi Manusia*)
2. Vyvyane Loh -- *Breaking the Tongue*
3. Hamid Roslan – *Parsetreeforestfire* (poetry collection) (shortlisted for Singapore Literature Prize 2020)
4. F. Sionil Jose – *The Pretenders*

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.