

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	<u>HL3007 Postcolonial Literature</u> Category D (World Literature)
Academic Unit	:	3 AU
Pre-requisite	:	HL1001

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 (Singapore, Indonesia, 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	Public Holiday		
04	This Earth of Mankind		
05	The Pretenders		
06	The Pretenders		
07	Essay Consultation		The essay is due on 5 th April
	RECESS		
08	Mass		“Rough” essay draft due week 8
09	-- Peer Review -- Courtesies of Academic Communication		Due date for Peer Review Exercise -----(based on “rough” essay draft of partner)
10	Mass		
11	Breaking the Tongue		
12	Breaking the Tongue		
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	10%
Peer Review Exercise	5%
Exam	<u>50%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. *This Earth of Mankind* --- Pramoedya Ananta Toer
2. *The Pretenders* --- F. Sionil Jose
3. *Mass* --- F. Sionil Jose
4. *Breaking the Tongue* --- Vyvyane Loh

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.

NB

Please note that *The Pretenders* and *Mass* are available in a two-novel volume titled: *The Samsons: Two Novels - The Pretenders and Mass*. [ISBN-13: 978-0375752445]

If you can, please get this from a second-hand bookshop.