

MA module: HL7113 (Semester 1 – academic Year 2023--24)
Postcolonial Literature: Roots and Routes

Tutor: Professor Shirley Chew
 Meeting Room 3 SoH Level 3
 Tuesdays 2.30-5.30

This module introduces a broad range of selected postcolonial literary texts in English from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Covering a network of roots and routes, and emerging from diverse social and cultural contexts, the texts map a distinctive space within postcolonial studies that invites engagement with issues of history, identity, home, race, environment. It calls for comparative studies of the literature, and for exploration of significant ways in which the postcolonial might be explored, reexamined, reworked, and taken forward.

Students are introduced to key areas of postcolonial discourse theory, and ways of opening up critical dialogue between discursive and literary texts. Work by theorists and critics -- such as Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak, Stuart Hall, Paul Gilroy, Edouard Glissant, Walter D. Mignolo, Gloria Anzaldua -- will be discussed.

The module engages students in literary analysis and interpretation, and interdisciplinary approaches to literature. It seeks to stimulate further independent research in postcolonial literature and postcolonial discourse.

Reading List: Primary Texts (in alphabetical order)

1. General Introduction -- includes an excerpt from Joseph Conrad, 'Geography and Some Explorers' (text provided by tutor); art works from Caspar David Friedrich (Germany) and Romuald Hazome (Benin)
2. Tash Aw, *We, the Survivors* (London: Fourth Estate, 2019)
3. Eavan Boland, *New Selected Poems* (Manchester: Carcanet Press, 2013)
4. Teju Cole, *Every Day is for the Thief* (London: Faber, 2014)
5. Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day* (1980; London: Vintage Books, 2018)
6. Amitav Ghosh, *The Glass Palace* (2000; London: Flamingo, 2002)*
7. Helon Habila, *Oil on Water* (2010; London: Penguin Books, 2011)
8. Gail Jones, *Sorry* (2007; London: Vintage Books, 2008)
9. V.S. Naipaul, *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987; London: Vintage Books, 1988)
10. Michael Ondaatje, *Running in the Family* (1982; London: Bloomsbury, 2009)
11. Olive Senior, *Gardening in the Tropics: New Poems* (Tyne and Wear, UK: Bloodaxe, 1995)
12. Alexis Wright, *The Swan Book* ([2013] NY: Washington Square Press, 2018)**

A **programme of seminars** will be available at the first meeting of the semester on Tuesday 15 August 2023. A reading-list of secondary texts on Tuesday 22 August 2023.

Teaching method

3-hour Seminars: Lectures, Student Presentations, Discussions.

Assessment:

One assessed essay of **5,500 (min) to 6,000 (max)** words comparing at least two texts on the module.
