

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) dovetail with postcolonial concerns such as the imperative to contest Eurocentrism, affirm diversity/alterity and promote cultural formation/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 two Southeast Asian works (one Filipino, one Indonesian) that question post-independence arrangements. Among other things, we explore how writers question dominant scripts that foster marginalization and hegemony.

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 [28 Sept to 2 Oct]		
08	Ilustrado		
09	Essay assignment (in class)		
10	The Sea Speaks His Name		
11	The Sea Speaks His Name		
12	Presentations		
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	– 30%
Participation and presentation	– 20%
Final exam	– <u>50%</u>
Total	– <u>100%</u>

The essay assignment will be done in class.

Textbooks/References

Primary readings:

1. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)
2. Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (Trans. by Denys Johnson-Davies) (1966/1969)
3. Miguel Syjuco, *Ilustrado: A Novel* (2008)
4. Leila S. Chudori, *The Sea Speaks His Name* (2020) (Trans. by John H. McGlynn) [originally published as *Laut Bercerita* in 2017]

Secondary texts:

These will be confirmed later.