

LIT 3400/EUS 3930 – Postcolonialism and New Narratives of Europe (Class #
25258/25233), Spring 2020

Instructor Name: Romy Rajan

Course Meetings Times and Locations: MAT 0113, T – Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM), R – Period 7, 8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM)

Office Location and Hours: TBD

Course Website: Canvas

Instructor e-mail: rrajan@ufl.edu

Course Description:

Since the formal independence of European colonies in the middle of the twentieth century, postcolonial immigration to Europe has been the subject of intense scholarly and public debates. The resulting diversity has been reflected in Europe's changing literary and cinematic landscapes which feature changing attitudes towards immigrants and the multiple ways in which immigrants themselves have sought to make sense of their new surroundings. During this period, immigrants have had to contend with the rise of white nativism in different parts of Europe which has not, however, nullified possibilities of interracial solidarity, at least at the level of representation. In chronological units which focus on the period of immigrant arrival and possible moments of interracial solidarity, the course will analyze novels and films that represent such currents of post-colonial immigration over the course of the second half of the twentieth century.

During this course, students will –

1. Learn about the representations of postcolonial migration and moments of solidarity following the Second World War and the discourses to which these works contribute.
2. Be able to identify the geographical changes that cities in Europe have undergone following decolonization and analyze representations of such changes.

3. Learn how migrant populations have mobilized and agitated against white supremacist policies and movements.

Required Texts:

Selvon, Sam. *Lonely Londoners* (1956). Publisher: Penguin Classics

Kureishi, Hanif. *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990). Publisher: Penguin (ISBN: 978-0140131680)

Mabanckou, Alain. *Blue White Red* (1998). Publisher: Indiana University Press (ISBN: 978-0253007919)

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth* (2000). Publisher: Vintage (ISBN: 978-0375703867)

Monica, Ali. *Brick Lane* (2003). Publisher: Scribner (ISBN: 978-0743243315)

Scego, Igiaba. *Adua* (2015). Publisher: New Vessel Press (ISBN: 978-1939931450)

Gurnah, Abdul Razak. *Gravel Heart* (2017). Publisher: Bloomsbury

Essays and speeches that have been prescribed will be uploaded on Canvas.

Assignments:

Quizzes (100 points)

There will be ten quizzes conducted over the course of the semester to assess students' knowledge of the reading material. Quizzes will cover the reading material assigned for that day and will be announced in the previous class.

Critical Response Papers (500 words each, 100x2=200 points)

Students will need to submit two position papers in which they state their position regarding the topic provided in the rubric. These topics will concern a text that has already been discussed in class and students will need to use at least one secondary source that is not a part of the syllabus.

Digital Maps (200 points)

This will involve the creation of digital maps of the immigrant enclaves referred to in the different units. Students can choose a set of texts to create at least two maps that recreate locations referred to in a text or a film. The maps will indicate the changes that have taken place in these spaces over a period of time in a factor of the student's choosing (racial make-up, population strength, linguistic changes, etc.). The maps will be accompanied by a two-page description of the project, explaining the changes that are indicated in the map.

Research Paper (2500 words, 500 points)

Students will create a well-researched paper about one novel or film that is a part of the syllabus. Your paper will take a clear position on a topic connected to postcolonial migration and will be

supplemented by at least 5 secondary sources. Students will need to consult the instructor while in the process of deciding their topic, either during office hours or over e-mails.

Course Policies:

1. You must complete *all assignments* to receive credit for this course.
2. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. Use allotted absences wisely, (for emergencies, major illness) as you would for any job. Students will lose 10 points for a fourth absence and 30 for a fifth. A total of six absences results in a failure of the course. Absences will be excused only in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and those absences covered by UF's twelve-day rule
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class and for completing the missed assignments. Students are responsible for all work covered in class, all announcements, and all changes to the syllabus made in class.
3. Students are required to arrive to class on time as late arrivals disrupt the flow of the lecture and interrupt discussions. Three late arrivals to class will count as an absence. Arriving later than 15 minutes will count as a complete absence. Latecomers are responsible for informing the instructor of their presence following the class.
4. Paper Format & Submission: You will need to submit all papers through Canvas, as word documents. Submission in any other format will receive a reduced grade.
5. Late Papers/Assignments: Late submissions will not be accepted except under extenuating circumstances. These will be penalized 10% of the overall grade for every day that the assignment is late.
6. Paper Maintenance Responsibilities. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
7. Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism. Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.
8. Students with disabilities who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), which will provide appropriate documentation to give the instructor early in the semester.
9. For information on UF Grading policies, see:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
10. Grade Appeals. Students may appeal a final grade by following the process outlined by the department for upper-division courses. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
11. Course Evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course:
<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>
12. Students who face difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352) 392-1575, or contact them online: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

13. Classroom behavior: Diverse opinions on the text under discussion are vital to lively classroom discussions. Intolerant remarks about peers' comments are not allowed. Disrespectful behavior towards your peers or the instructor will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class. Students are responsible for the maintenance of the decorum of the classroom and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to productive discussions.

Cell phone and Laptop policy: Students must turn cell phones to silent mode before coming to class. Cell phones cannot be used in class. Laptops, e-readers, or tablets can be used only to view material that is pertinent to the texts under discussion. If I find you visibly distracted while using these devices, I will assume that you are using them for purposes not related to the class and you will receive a reduced grade for class participation.

14. UF's policy on Harassment: UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty: <http://hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/recruitment-staffing/institutional-equitydiversity/resources/harassment/>

15. Policy on environmental sustainability. Whenever possible, I will use paper-sparing electronic media to distribute our course materials. Consider purchasing electronic editions of assigned texts when they are available or used copies of print texts. If you do not elect to keep your print books, consider sharing them with others after the semester ends. (For example, you could donate them to the Alachua County Friends of the Library annual book sale.)

Syllabus Schedule:

Date	Reading	Assignment Due
Introduction		
Week 1		
1/7 Tue	Course and Syllabus Overview, "Rivers of Blood," Speech by Enoch Powell, 1968	
1/9 Thurs	Margaret Thatcher's speech at Cheltenham, 1982 Nicolas Sarkozy's speech on African relations, 2007	
1/9 Thurs	"Why Africans Should Take Offense at Nicolas Sarkozy's Speech," Boubacar Boris Diop, El Hadji Moustapha Diop, 2007 "The New Empire within Britain," Salman Rushdie, 1982	
Week 2		
1/14 Tue	"On Violence," Frantz Fanon, 1961	
Unit I: Arrival		
1/16 Thurs	Sam Selvon, <i>Lonely Londoners</i> (1956)	

	Lord Kitchener, "London is the Place for Me" (1948)	
1/16 Thurs	Sam Selvon, <i>Lonely Londoners</i> (1956)	
Week 3		
1/21 Tue	Sam Selvon, <i>Lonely Londoners</i> (1956) Ashley Dawson, "In the Big City the Sex Life Gone Wild" Migration, Gender, and Identity in Sam Selvon's <i>The Lonely Londoners</i>	
1/23 Thurs	<i>Black Girl</i> , Ousmane Sembene (1966) Cristina Alvarez Lopez, "A Long Way from Home"	
1/23 Thurs	<i>Black Girl</i> , Ousmane Sembene, Continued	
Week 4		
1/28 Tue	<i>Black Girl</i> , Ousmane Sembene, "France's Contribution to the Development of Film Production in Africa", Manthia Diawara	First Critical Response Due
Unit II: Solidarity and Possible Alliances		
1/30 Thurs	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> , Hanif Kureishi (1990)	
1/30 Thurs	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> , Hanif Kureishi	
Week 5		
2/4 Tue	<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> , Hanif Kureishi, "Re-framing Europe: gendered racisms, ethnicities and nationalisms in contemporary Western Europe," Avtar Brah	
2/6 Thurs	Digital Mapping Workshop	
2/6 Thurs	<i>La Haine</i> , Mathieu Kassovitz, (1995) "Fuck France!" <i>The French Intifada</i> , Andrew Hussey	
Week 6		
2/11 Tue	<i>La Haine</i> , Mathieu Kassovitz, Tom Conley, <i>Cartographic Cinema</i>	
2/13 Thurs	<i>La Haine</i> , Mathieu Kassovitz, "Twenty Years of Hate," Andrew Hussey	
2/13 Thurs	<i>Blue White Red</i> , Alain Mabanckou (1998)	
Week 7		
2/18 Tue	<i>Blue White Red</i> , Alain Mabanckou	Second Critical Response Due
2/20 Thurs	<i>Blue White Red</i> , Alain Mabanckou	

Unit III: Multiculturalism		
2/20 Thurs	<i>Brick Lane</i> , Monica Ali (2003)	
Week 8		
2/25 Tue	<i>Brick Lane</i> , Monica Ali	
2/27 Thurs	<i>Brick Lane</i> , Monica Ali	
2/27 Thurs	<i>Brick Lane</i> , Monica Ali, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora,” Stuart Hall	
Week 9: 2/29 (Sat) – 3/8 (Sun) : Spring Break		
Week 10		
3/10 Tue	“Citizenship and identity: living in diasporas in post-war Europe?” Yasemin Nuhoglu Soysal	
3/12 Thurs	<i>White Teeth</i> , Zadie Smith (2000)	
3/12 Thurs	<i>White Teeth</i> , Zadie Smith	
Week 11		
3/17 Tue	<i>White Teeth</i> , Zadie Smith	
3/19 Thurs	<i>White Teeth</i> , Zadie Smith, “White Woman Listen! Black Feminism and the Boundaries of Sisterhood,” Hazel Carby	
3/19 Thurs	<i>White Teeth</i> , Zadie Smith	
Week 12		
3/24 Tue	“Hybridity,” Homi Bhabha	
Unit IV: Reevaluation of Cultural Identities		
3/26 Thurs	<i>Adua</i> , Igiaba Scego (2015)	Digital Maps due
3/26 Thurs	<i>Adua</i> , Igiaba Scego	
Week 13		
3/31 Tue	<i>Adua</i> , Igiaba Scego	
4/2 Thurs	“Europe for the Europeans,” Cas Mudde	
4/2 Thurs	<i>Gravel Heart</i> , Abdul Razak Gurnah (2017)	
Week 14		
4/7 Tue	<i>Gravel Heart</i> , Abdul Razak Gurnah	

4/9 Thurs	<i>Gravel Heart</i> , Abdul Razak Gurnah	
4/9 Thurs	Research Paper Workshop	
Week 15		
4/14 Tue	<i>The African Doctor</i> , Julien Rambaldi (2016)	
4/16 Thurs	<i>The African Doctor</i> , “The ‘diaspora’ diaspora,” Rogers Brubaker	
Conclusion		
4/16 Thurs	<i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> , Stephen Frears (1985) “New Ethnicities”, Stuart Hall	
Week 16		
4/21 Tue	Course Evaluations	Final Research Paper Due

Grading Scale:

A	4.0	93-100	930-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-92	900-929	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

Grading Rubric

- A- The paper displays conceptual clarity and is familiar with the text in question. Details from the text and its techniques are skillfully included in order to substantiate the claims made. There are few grammatical or syntactical errors in the paper.
- B- The paper attempts to construct an argument using evidence from the text and secondary sources and is reasonably successful. There are grammatical and syntactical errors that disrupt the flow of the essay.
- C- The paper is confused regarding its argument and is unable to synthesize textual and contextual material well. There are grammatical and syntactical mistakes that affect the accessibility of the argument.

D - The paper displays little knowledge of the text, its formal elements or the period during which it was produced. It is unable to construct a coherent argument and is replete with grammatical and syntactical errors.