

Olakunle George
email: Olakunle_George@Brown.edu
Office Hours: TH. 1-3pm

Phone: 863-2879
Office: Carr 222

ENGL 0710E: Postcolonial Tales of Transition [CRN 15172] Alumnae Hall 212

This course focuses on postcolonial British, Anglo-Caribbean, and South African works that exemplify or refashion the category of the bildungsroman, the novel of education. Issues to be considered include the ways the texts rework archetypal tropes of initiation, rebellion, development, and the interplay of contradictory passions. We will also think about ways in which issues of race, gender, and sexuality emerge in the texts, and the connections or disjunctions between literature (as the terrain of language), and “the real world” (as the terrain of action).

Required Texts:

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines*
Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*
James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*.
George Lamming, *In the Castle of My Skin*
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Zoë Wicomb, *Playing in the Light*

C. L. R. James, Excerpt from *Beyond a Boundary* [OCRA]
Dambudzo Marechera, *House of Hunger* [OCRA]
V. S. Naipaul, “The Journey” [OCRA]

Course Requirements:

1. You are expected to attend all class meetings. I shall take attendance, and after two unexcused absences your grade for class participation will be adversely affected.
2. Always come to class fully prepared to contribute to class discussion. We will make a habit of reading passages aloud in class, so you should always bring your copy of the reading for the day (hard copy or E-book).
3. You are required to write three papers. Final course grade will be based on the three papers (30% each) and class participation (10%).

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1 (September 1-5):

- . Wednesday: Introduction
- . Friday:
 - Marianne Hirsch, “The Novel of Formation as Genre”
 - Joe Slaughter, “Bildungsroman/Künstlerroman”

Week 2 (September 8-12):

- . Monday: James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- . Wednesday: *Portrait*
- . Friday: *Portrait*

Week 3 (September 15-19):

- . Monday: *Portrait* ; begin C. L. R. James, *Beyond a Boundary* (Excerpt]
- . Wednesday: C. L. R. James, Excerpt
- . Friday: V. S. Naipaul, "The Journey"

Week 4 (September 22-26):

- . Monday: George Lamming, *In the Castle of My Skin*
- . Wednesday: *Castle*
- . Friday: *Castle*

Week 5 (September 29-October 3):

- . Monday: Lamming, *Castle*
- . Wednesday: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- . Friday: *Wide Sargasso Sea*

. Paper #1 (4-5 pages) due on Thursday, October 2

Week 6 (October 6-10):

- . Monday: Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- . Wednesday: *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- . Friday: *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Week 7 (October 13-17):

- . Monday (October 13): Fall Weekend Holiday
- . Wednesday: Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*
- . Friday: *Lucy*

Week 8 (October 20-24):

- . Monday: Kincaid, *Lucy*; begin Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
- . Wednesday: *Nervous Conditions*
- . Friday: *Nervous Conditions*

Week 9 (October 27-31):

- . Monday: Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
- . Wednesday: Dambudzo Marechera, *The House of Hunger*
- . Friday: *House of Hunger*

Paper #2 (4-5 pages) due on Monday, November 3

Week 10 (November 3-7):

- . Monday: Amitav Ghosh, *The Shadow Lines* [Paper #2 due today]
- . Wednesday: *Shadow Lines*
- . Friday: *Shadow Lines*

Week 11 (November 10-14)

- . Monday: Ghosh, *Shadow Lines*; begin Zoë Wicomb, *Playing in the Light*
- . Wednesday: Wicomb, *Playing*
- . Friday: Wicomb, *Playing*

Week 12 (November 17-21)

- . Monday: Wicomb, *Playing*
- . Wednesday: Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*
- . Friday: Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*

Week 13 (November 24-28)

- . Monday (Nov 24): Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*
- . Wednesday-Friday (Nov 26-30): Thanksgiving recess

Week 14 (December 1-5)

- . Monday: *Never Let Me Go*
- . Wednesday: *Never Let Me Go*
- . Friday: Wrap Up

. Paper #3 (5-6 pages) due Friday, December 12