

**English 5306: Studies and Research Techniques in English Literature:  
Postcolonial Literature**

Dr. Sharon Hileman

Fall 2014

Office phone: (432) 837-8015

Office hours: MWF 10-12; TT 2-4; and by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course will provide an opportunity to read novels, autobiography, and short fiction written in English by authors from some of the former colonies of Great Britain. We will read works from Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Caribbean. Terminology and theory associated with postcolonialism will be presented, and we will consider historical and cultural backgrounds of each country to obtain a context for the works we read.

**English M.A. Program Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in British and American literature
- Explicate literary works representative of two periods or genres in British literature and two periods or genres in American literature
- Employ methodology and terminology used in creative writing or linguistics
- Conduct substantial research to support original interpretations of literary works, provide original applications of literary or linguistic theories, or present literature reviews of authors or genres that have inspired creative writing projects

**Course Objectives:** Students will be able to

- Define and apply terminology from postcolonial literary theory to works read in class
- Identify literary and linguistic techniques employed by the postcolonial writers read in class
- Determine the significance of “sense of place” in each assigned literary work
- Compare and contrast authors’ presentations of social, political, cultural, and gender issues in assigned literary texts
- Apply an understanding of postcolonial theory and texts to an independent research project

**Course Requirements:** Specific course assignments will include written responses to each work read in the class, a film review, Discussion Board posts, a research project (paper and PowerPoint), and a final exam. The research paper must follow MLA format and documentation requirements (which will be reviewed). Students who are also enrolled in Eng. 5300 will be able to use the same topic for research assignments in both classes. Postcolonial theory will be one of the literary approaches presented in Eng. 5300 as well.

**Grades:** Grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Reading questions and writing assignments | 40%            |
| Discussion Board posts                    | 10%            |
| Research project                          | 20%/ Paper     |
|                                           | 10% PowerPoint |
| Final exam                                | 20%            |

**Course Policies:** Because this is an online class, students are expected to log in and check the Announcements page regularly, use their Sul Ross e-mail address, and submit assignments on the dates they are due. Late penalties will be assessed on late work unless you have notified the instructor that you are having technical difficulties.

**Technical Assistance:** Here are the names and contact information for people who can help with technical difficulties:

**Weekdays:** (Mon-Fri 8:00am - 6:00pm)  
Sandy Bogus: [sbogus@sulross.edu](mailto:sbogus@sulross.edu) 432-837-8523  
Estella Vega: [estellav@sulross.edu](mailto:estellav@sulross.edu) 432-837-8356

**Weekends**  
(Sat 8am-5pm & Sun 11am - 7pm )  
Russell Klein  
[rklein@sulross.edu](mailto:rklein@sulross.edu)  
432-837-8595

**Sul Ross Help Desk:**  
<https://techassist.sulross.edu>  
432-837-8888

**Textbooks:** We will read the books listed below in the order in which they are listed:

Soyinka, Wole. *Aké: The Years of Childhood*. Vintage, 1981.  
Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India*. Milkweed, 1991.  
Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. Harper Perennial, 1998.  
Malouf, David. *Remembering Babylon*. Vintage, 1994.  
Morgan, Sally. *My Place*. Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1987.  
Hulme, Keri. *The Bone People*. Penguin, 1986.  
Lovelace, Earl. *The Dragon Can't Dance*. Persea Books, 1979.

**Assignments:** A summary of the schedule of assignments with due dates is attached; when you access the course in Blackboard, you will be able to click on each assignment link to obtain more information.

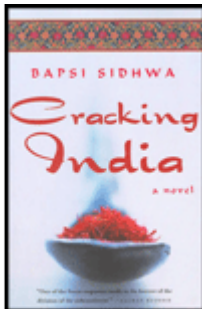
**Introduction to Course:** Aug. 28: Discussion Board due

**Nigeria: Postcolonial Autobiography:** Aug. 31-Sept. 13: *Aké: The Years of Childhood*-Wole Soyinka



Sept. 6: Assignment due  
Sept. 10: Discussion Board due  
Sept. 13: Reading Questions due

**India/Pakistan: Creating Postcolonial Nations:** Sept. 14-27:  
*Cracking India*--Bapsi Sidhwa



Sept. 17: Discussion Board due  
Sept. 24: Film Option 1 Assignment due (choose one from four options)  
Sept. 27: Reading Questions due

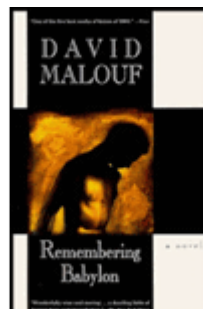
**India: Booker Prize Winner:** Sept. 28-Oct. 11: *The God of Small Things*--Arundhati Roy



Oct. 1 and 8: Discussion Boards due  
Oct. 11: Assignment due

**Australia: Settler Colony:** Oct. 12-25: *Remembering Babylon*—David Malouf

Oct. 15: Discussion  
Oct. 22: Film Option 2 options)  
Oct. 25: Reading



Board due  
Assignment due (choose one from four  
Questions due

**Australia: Postcolonial Family Memoir:** Oct. 26-Nov. 8: *My Place*—Sally Morgan



Oct. 29: Discussion Board due

Nov. 5: Film Option 3 Assignment due (choose one from four)

Nov. 8: Assignment due

**New Zealand: Booker Prize Winner:** Nov. 9-22: *The Bone People*--Keri Hulme



Nov. 12: Discussion Board due

Nov. 19: Film Option 4 Assignment due (choose one from four options)

Nov. 22: Reading Questions due

**The Caribbean: Postcolonial Carnival:** Nov. 23-Dec. 3: *The Dragon Can't Dance*--Earl Lovelace



December 3: Reading Questions due

**Course Project**

Dec. 4-10: The project is due Dec. 10 by noon.

**Final Exam**

December 11: The exam is due by midnight Dec. 11.