

FW 2025-26

AP/EN 2240 6.0A (Y)	Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures
Course Director:	Vikrant Dadawala Email: vikrantd@yorku.ca Office: Atkinson 624 Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30 to 3:30 pm, or by appointment
Time:	Wednesdays, 11:30 am to 2:20 pm
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	<p>This course introduces students to the most acclaimed works of 20th and 21st century literature from Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. We will read widely across genres (short-stories, novels, memoirs, and essays), paying close attention to how authors from around the world bend and stretch the English language to make room for new voices. Throughout, our focus will be on narratives of travel, migration, exile, and self-discovery. We will consider questions such as: What does it mean to be a witness or a narrator? What was the role of race and sexuality in cross-cultural encounters between Europeans, Asians, and Africans? How did the independence movements of the twentieth century transform world literature? Can we recover redemptive stories of wonder, enchantment, and friendship that transcend the limitations of their time? In the process, we will learn more about literature's response to some of the most urgent issues of our times, including colonialism, war, and mass-migration.</p> <p>This course will provide students with a solid understanding of how colonial encounters and decolonization struggles have shaped the modern world, leaving traces in all of our lives. Students will learn to read, think, and write critically by engaging carefully with major writers from the global South, and investigating how these writers have tackled hybrid identities, multilingual settings, and the bittersweet legacies of imperialism. AP/EN 2240 6.0 will provide a solid foundation for further literary study, including more advanced courses in African, South Asian, Caribbean, or immigrant literatures.</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Library Scavenger Hunt (10%) Fall Term Essay, 4-5 pages (15%)

	Fall Term Test, in-class (15%) Close-Reading Assignment (10%) Winter Term Essay, 7-8 pages (25%) Winter Term Test (15%) Active, informed participation (10%)
Reading List:	Besides the books listed below, occasional readings will be uploaded to the course website (eClass). Fall term: Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Abdulrazak Gurnah, <i>Paradise</i> Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> V.S. Naipaul, <i>Miguel Street</i> Winter term: Mariama Ba, <i>So Long a Letter</i> Epeli Hau'ofa, <i>Tales of the Tikongs</i> J. M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i> Rohinton Mistry, <i>Swimming Lessons</i> (alternative title: <i>Tales from Firozsha Baag</i>) Edwidge Danticat, <i>Brother, I'm Dying</i>
Open To:	YR 2, 3