

Postcolonial Preponderances: Critical Reading, Writing, and Research in a Globalizing Context

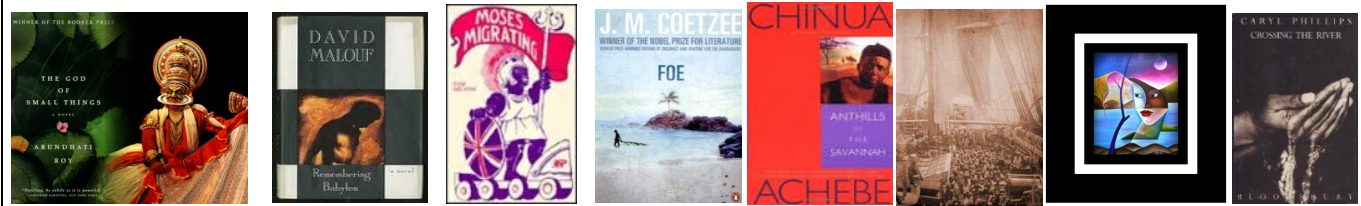
English 102: Swift Stiles Dickison, Ph.D. - English, Rockville

Students will engage in the historical legacy that underpins postcolonial tension and complexity, enriching their own attitude toward “others” as they become aware of interrelations among disparate global identities.

“Break a vase, and the love that reassembles the fragments is stronger than that love which took its symmetry for granted when it was whole.” *Derek Walcott*

Global Competencies:

- ✦ **Perspective Taking:** the ability to engage and learn from perspectives and experiences different from one’s own and to understand how one’s place in the world both informs and limits one’s knowledge
- ✦ **Global Self-Awareness:** in the context of global learning, the continuum through which students develop a mature, integrated identity with a systemic understanding of the interrelationships among the self, local and global communities, and the natural and physical world.



Students will be evaluated on their ability to identify and explore a global problem or issue relevant to their postcolonial context; they will be assessed by the thoroughness of their exploration of sources treating postcolonial issues and the literature.

Some Sample Sources:

World Digital Library; Gale Global Issues in Context; Ethnic Newswatch; Excerpts from *Beginning Postcolonialism* (John McLeod); “Untouchability and Social Exclusion in Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* (Veena Shukla) *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences*; “Mollies Down Under: Cross-Dressing and Australian Masculinity in Peter Carey’s *True History of the Kelly Gang*” (Heather Smythe) *Journal of the History of Sexuality*; “The Trouble with Nigeria” (John Edward Phillips) *African Studies Review*; “Freeing the Imagination: George Lamming’s Aesthetics of Decolonization” (Ngugi wa Thiong’o) *Transition: an International Review*



“One of the best things about studying the past, or a different country or culture, is how it can enable you to see things about your own reality in a different light.” *Aviva Chomsky*

Some Assignments:

- ✦ **An Analysis of an Argument:** focusing on an argument treating a critical issue relevant to the student’s chosen area, culture, society, nation (based upon the list of Postcolonial authors).
- ✦ **An Argument** pertaining to a critical issue relevant to the student’s chosen area, culture, society, or nation; students must appeal to logic, emotion, or ethics, treating the opposing argument, employing other strategies, and documenting according to MLA style.
- ✦ **A Researched Essay** pertaining to the study of a particular work of Postcolonial Literature, including the author’s context, the society or culture generating the literary response, and a range of secondary sources treating the literature as well as those postcolonial contexts.