

Fall 2018

Reinhard Sander

PED 105B

Tel.: 787-764-0000 x 89646

Office Hours: Mo 4-5pm, TuTh 3-4:30pm, and by appointment

ENGLISH 8006

The Encounter Between Africa and the West

Mo 5-7:50pm, PED 106

Course Description

A study of the discursive relationship between Africa and the West during the last five hundred years, with a focus on some of the major European, African, and Caribbean texts that deal with racism, slave trade, slavery, colonialism, and neocolonialism.

Course Outline

1) The First Encounter:

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Bedford/St. Martin's 0312457529 / 978-0312457525)

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (Norton 0393970140 / 978-0393970142)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Norton 0393974944 / 978-0393974942)

The course begins with one of the European master texts that have shaped the European discourse on Africa and Africans. In addition, *The Tempest* through the figures of Prospero and Caliban highlights the origin and ideology of the colonizer/colonized and the master/slave relationship. The voices of a European woman and an African ex-slave will be explored individually, and then compared and contrasted with Shakespeare's play with a focus on issues of gender, race, and sexuality.

2) The Colonial Period:

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Norton 0393926362 / 978-0393926361)

Chinua Achebe, *Arrow of God* (Penguin 0385014805 / 0385014809)

Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, frequently considered to be an anti-colonial novel, will here be read against an African anti-colonial novel by Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe. Among the major issues to be addressed will be Conrad's representation of Africa and Africans, and Achebe's representation of Europeans.

3) The Postcolonial/Neocolonial Period

V.S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River* (Vintage 0679722025 / 978-0679722021)

Maryse Condé, *Heremakhonon* (Lynne Rienner 0894108867 / 978-0894018860)

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Devil on the Cross* (Heinemann 0435908448 / 978-0435908447)

The course will end with works set in contemporary Africa by two Caribbean writers and an African writer. All three writers, V.S. Naipaul of Trinidad, Maryse Condé of Guadeloupe, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o of Kenya, address the social, political and economic crisis in Africa, but come to very different conclusions while acknowledging the effects of the European colonial legacy and the ongoing domination of Africa by the West.

Throughout the course students will be encouraged to familiarize themselves with the relevant cultural, historical, social, and political contexts. Handouts will provide critical material on the various authors and introduce basic theoretical frameworks. We will make frequent use of visual materials--films and videos.

In order to complete this course successfully, students are expected to do the following: attend class regularly and punctually; complete the assigned readings; participate in class discussions; present three oral reports (two on literary texts, one on a critical/theoretical text); take a midterm examination when scheduled; compile a bibliography of critical materials on one of the literary texts discussed in class, with one-page annotations of 20 items (one book = 5 essays); prepare a substantial research paper (topic to be discussed with the professor) which, like the annotated bibliography, is due on the last day of classes (15-20 pp.)

Papers and bibliographies should be word processed). They should be double-spaced and must be handed in at the beginning of the last class period. I will not accept late work, unless you have a doctor's note.

Syllabus

August	20	Introduction
	27	Introduction
	28	(Tuesday) Introduction
September	03	(no class)
	10	<i>The Tempest</i>
	17	<i>The Tempest</i>
	24	<i>Oroonoko</i>
October	01	<i>Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano</i>
	08	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>
	15	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>
	22	<i>Midterm-Examination</i>
	29	Arrow of God
November	05	Arrow of God
	12	(no class)
	19	(no class)

	26	A Bend in the River
December	03	Heremakhonon
	10	Devil on the Cross

Final paper and annotated bibliography due on Monday, December 10

Special events of relevance to the course will be scheduled as they occur and students are required to attend them.