

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

UCLR 100: INTERPRETING LITERATURE
Literature of Global Crossings
Fall 2018

UCLR 100-00
W 2:00-4:30pm

Cristina Lombardi-Diop
Office Hours:
T 4:00-5:30pm
or by appt.
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Required Materials:

Textbook:

The Bedford Anthology of World Literature. The Twentieth Century, 1900 - The Present.
Volume 6. Edited by Paul Davis et al. Boston and New York: Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2003.
ISBN: 978-0312404826

Website:

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/worldlit/default.asp?uid=0&rau=0>

Selected texts excerpted from the textbook:

Novel

Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Novella

Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Short-Story

Camus, *The Guest*

Cisneros, *Never Marry a Mexican*

Desai, *The Farewell Party*

Rushdie, *The Courter*

Film

Sembene Ousmane, *Moolaadé* [2004]

Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* [1968]

Drama

Soyinka, *The Lion and the Jewel*

Poetry

Yeats, "The Second Coming"

Kipling, "The White Man's Burden"

McKay, "Outcast"

Essay

Achebe, "An Image of Africa"

Course Description:

This section of UCLR 100 explores major texts of world literature in the twentieth century. Centering on literary works that present the interactions between different cultures, it begins with works from the colonial period at the beginning of the century, moves on to the post-colonial reaction after World War Two, and concludes with the emerging globalism at the end of the century. The course's purpose is twofold: it asks students to engage with fundamental issues relevant to the function of literature in apprehending the human experience, and it helps them develop the methods and strategies of interpreting literary texts in order to accomplish this task in a rigorous and sophisticated manner. Through close reading and analysis of a variety of fictional, dramatic, and poetic works, students will learn how literature shapes self-identity within different global contexts, and how such contexts are, in turn, shaped by cultural forces and power relations.

UCLR 100 is the required Tier I foundational course in the Literary Knowledge and Experience Area of the Core Curriculum and serves as a prerequisite for all second tier literature courses for students admitted to Loyola in Fall 2012 or later.

Course requirements include two papers, a midterm and final examination, and class participation.

Course Objectives:

The course will enable students to:

1. Engage with the fundamental issues relevant to the function of literature in the apprehension of the human experience;
2. Develop the methods and strategies of interpreting a variety of literary works (fiction, drama, poetry);
3. Become familiar with the societal and cultural contexts of different geographical areas during the twentieth century;
4. Critically assess how the particular societal and cultural forces that have existed in different global contexts may still impact their life in the twentieth-first century.

Instructor/Course Policies and Procedures:

Attendance

Because participating in classroom instruction is essential to succeed in this course, **students are expected to attend all classes. More than 2 unexcused absences** will result in a loss of **two grade points** for each unexcused absence.

Reporting absences and late or missed work

I expect students to write to me to report the reason for their absence if the absence extends for more than 2 classes in a row. However, your email message will not be enough to excuse it. In order for your absence to be excused, I will need a medical notification of illness, or any

notification justifying an emergency. Students who miss class are still responsible for doing the homework and turning assignments in on time. Please do not write to me to ask for the missed work: you should take care of it on your own by looking on SAKAI or asking your fellow students. All assignments are due on the dates indicated through SAKAI announcements. Any exceptions must be arranged with the instructor ahead of time.

Grading Percentages and Grading Scale:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- 20% class participation and preparedness
- 40% in class reading tests
- 40% (1@ 15 % and 1@ 25%) midterm/final exams

Specific Grading Criteria

Grade (range)	Exams/essays	Participation
A (90-100) Outstanding	Excellent, original articulation of student’s understanding of major concepts/ideas; displays in-depth reading of class material and complex critical insight; few, if any, problems with organization or mechanics.	Present and alert in class. Good listening, taking notes. Frequent, thoughtful contributions to discussion.
B (80-89) Very good	Good articulation of student’s understanding of major concepts/ideas; displays very good grasp of the reading; perhaps some problems with organization or mechanics.	Present and alert in class. Good listening, taking notes. Contributes often to discussion.
C (70-79) Satisfactory	Meets requirements/expectations; displays a basic grasp of the reading; some problems with organization or mechanics.	Present and alert in class. Listens, takes notes. Contributes occasionally to discussion.
D (60-69) Unsatisfactory	Does not meet minimal expectations; does not display a clear understanding of the reading and basic concepts; writing may be incoherent or unintelligible.	Several absences from class and discussion. Inattentive or disruptive.
F (below 60) Very unsatisfactory	Does not approach minimal expectations. Incomplete or missing work.	Does not meet minimal expectations. Numerous absences from class and discussion.

Grading scale

The following scale is a guide to grading in this class. If you have questions about your grade on a specific assignment, please see me individually.

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|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| A = 93-100 | A- = 90-92 | B+ = 87-89 | B = 83-86 |
| B- = 80-82 | C+ = 77-79 | C = 73-76 | C- = 70-72 |
| D+ = 67-69 | D = 60-66 | F = below 60 | |

Requirements:

The course will comprise lectures, close textual analysis, peer-review of students' writings, and general class discussion. In order to do well in this course, this is the required work:

1. Participation and preparedness*(20%): Consistent preparation for this class is extremely important. Please remember that, to do well in this course, you must come to class having completed the reading and any other assignments on the day listed in the syllabus. If you come prepared, you will be able to enjoy the class and participate with *gusto* to it. Participation will be measured on the consistency, relevance, and engagement of your contribution to class discussions.

*based on 90% attendance

In preparing for class, please consider the following questions about the week's assigned readings:

- What are the style and tone of the text?
- Pay attention to dominant imaginary, symbols, and recurring themes
- How are these texts the product of a particular time and place?
- Which of the literary categories we have discussed so far would you place this text in?
- What are the author's goals in writing this piece?
- What is the narrative point of view?
- Who is this author responding to or in dialogue with?
- Are the reading's ideas, feelings, and concepts still relevant today? How so?
- What struck you as particularly interesting, novel, or particularly outmoded?
- Can you give a contemporary example of any of the ideas, feelings, images, and concepts (i.e., from the time it was written)?

2. Tests (40%)

Every four weeks students will be given a reading test that will examine their knowledge of the texts being discussed in class. This will be solely content based and it is to ensure that students keep up with the required reading.

3. A mid-semester in-class exam (15%). This exam will cover the material of the course to that date. The date of the exam is given in the course schedule below. In case of excused absence (proof required), you have one week maximum in which to take an alternative exam. It is your responsibility to arrange for this make-up at a time convenient to your instructor.

4. A final exam (25%) (two hours) on the date scheduled below. The final examination will cover the material of the entire course. Please note that make-up final exams can only be scheduled through the college dean's office and are only granted in the most extreme emergencies.

Exams

Please consult the attached schedule for the dates of the midterm and final exams. The midterm will cover the readings that correlate to the first half of the semester and the final will cover the later half of the semester.

Final Exam

Your final exam for this course will take place in December according to the JFRC academic policies.

Policies:

Academic Honesty

In addition to the Loyola University Chicago Academic Integrity policy outlined at http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml , the following apply:

- 1) Students may not use automated translators to write compositions.
- 2) Students may not ask friends, relatives or native speakers to complete their assignments.
- 3) Students may not recycle their own or other people's work.
- 4) Students must explicitly cite any material that has been taken from the Internet or other sources.

Please note that any single instance of Academic Dishonesty will result in a grade of "0" on the assignment or exam in question. A pattern of failure to comply with these standards will result in a failing grade.

Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact me the first week of class, as well as the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Email Communication

I will do my best to reply to emails sent during business hours M-F within 9am – 5pm. Emails sent after 6 pm will be considered received the next business day. I will not answer emails on the weekend. The best way to communicate with me extensively is always in person during my office hours or by making an appointment.

Make-up exams and missed or late assignments

There are no make-up exam arrangements for this class without a proper notification justifying the reason for the absence. If you miss an exam because of illness, you must show a medical certificate or notification justifying an emergency. Please consult the Loyola Exam Schedule while planning your attendance in this course <http://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/>.

Sakai

This course will be using Sakai. Students are required to check the SAKAI site on a regular basis and are responsible for assignments, material, and deadlines posted there.

Computer & Internet Use in the Classroom

Use of laptop computers during class time is not permitted. There may be times when you will be asked to bring your laptop for various exercises/lessons. Use of the internet is not permitted unless specifically directed by the instructor. This includes checking of email and use of instant messengers.

Cell Phone Use

Cell phone use is not permitted during class time or exams. This includes sending and reading of Text Messages. All cellphones brought into the classroom must be set to silent. In the case of a personal emergency, students should quietly exit the classroom.

Food & Drink

Drinks in sealable containers are permitted in the classroom. Food is not to be eaten during class unless required for a medical condition.

Course Schedule
UCLR 100 – Tentative

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment/In-class activities
1	Intro to course Colonialism and Beyond	Sembene Ousmane’s <i>Moolaadé</i> (film screening in class)	Watch film: <i>Moolaadé</i>
2	European Perspective I	Intro to Conrad (30-35) Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (35-96)	
3		Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (35-96)	
4	European Perspective II	Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (104-106) Yeats, “The Second Coming” (193)	Complete readings and review lecture notes for Test 1
5	African Responses	Test # 1 in class (75 m) McKay, “Outcast” (876) Achebe, “An Image of Africa” (107-117)	Test #1
6		Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , part I (1023-1079) and II (1079-1096)	
7		Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Part III (1096-end) Midterm Review	
8		FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK
9	Colonialism in Algeria	Midterm exam (75 minutes) Camus, <i>The Guest</i> (812-825) Clips from Pontecorvo’s <i>The Battle of Algiers</i>	Midterm exam
10	Tradition vs. Modernity	Soyinka, <i>The Lion and the Jewel</i> (1141-1192)	
11	Tradition vs. Modernity	Soyinka, final discussion	Complete readings and review lecture notes for Test 2

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/In class activities
12	Crossing Cultures	Test # 2 in class (75 m) Crossing Cultures: India (1278- 1284) Rushdie, <i>The Courter</i> (1261-1277)	Test # 2
13		Finish Rushdie Desai, <i>The Farewell Party</i> (1193-1204)	
14	American Borderlands	Cisneros, "Never Marry a Mexican" (1370-1380)	
15		Review for final exam Final exam	