

**Department of English**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**ENGE2640: Introduction to World Literatures in English**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the variety of writing in English that is taking place around the world. In order to develop an appreciation of the range of writing in English, this course draws on different modes of literary expression such as novels, short stories, autobiographies and other kinds of writing. Importantly, many of the texts chosen will be those exploring aspects of cross-cultural, multilingual, or post-colonial experience – experiences which you may find resonate with your own experience of contemporary Hong Kong. In order to explore the richness of such experiences, this course draws on some relevant analytical approaches and literary theories.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A) appreciate the scale and diversity of writing in English
- B) recognize the significance of cross-cultural exchange in contemporary writing in English
- C) draw on key aspects of postcolonial literary theory and diaspora studies in order to productively explore world literatures in English
- D) produce a well-reasoned essay

TEXTS

Gordimer, Nadine. *Selected Stories* (excerpt)  
Iyer, Pico. *The Global Soul* (excerpt)  
Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies* (excerpt)  
Malouf, David. *The Only Speaker of his Tongue* (excerpt)  
Naipaul, V.S. *Miguel Street* (excerpt)  
Xu Xi. *Insignificance* (excerpt)

CLASS TOPICS

World Literature  
Colonialism and Decolonization  
Monolingualism and Multilingualism  
Nation and Cosmopolitanism  
Globalization and Cultural Appropriation  
Temporality and Space

### ASSESSMENT

- A) Class preparation, participation and presentation: 30%
- B) Exam: 20%
- C) Essay: 50%

### GRADE DESCRIPTORS

**Grade A / Excellent: Outstanding performance on ALL learning outcomes.**

Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would surpass the normal expectations at this level and typical of standards that may be common at higher levels of study. The 'A' grade should be reserved for truly excellent work that exceeds the level expected for the majority of students and are expected to be achieved only by a small minority

**Grade A- / Very Good: Generally outstanding performance on ALMOST ALL learning outcomes.**

Demonstrates the ability to synthesize and apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would fully fulfill the normal expectations at this level and occasionally reaches standards that may be common at higher levels of study.

**Grade B+ / Good (Plus): HIGH performance on all learning outcomes, OR HIGH performance on some learning outcomes which compensates WELL for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.**

Demonstrates the ability to apply WELL the principles or skills learned in the course in a comprehensive manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level WELL.

**Grade B / Good: SUBSTANTIAL performance on all learning outcomes, OR SUBSTANTIAL performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.**

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a MORE COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.

**Grade B- / Good (Minus): GOOD performance on all learning outcomes, OR GOOD performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for slightly less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.**

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a COMPREHENSIVE manner that would sufficiently fulfill the normal expectations at this level.

**Grade C+ / Fair (Plus): VERY SATISFACTORY performance on the majority of learning outcomes.**

Demonstrates the ability to apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a SOMEWHAT SUSTAINED manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.

**Grade C / Fair: SATISFACTORY performance on the majority of learning outcomes.**

Demonstrates the ability to partially apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the basic requirement at this level.

**Grade C- / Fair (Minus): SOMEWHAT SATISFACTORY performance on A NUMBER OF learning outcomes.**

Demonstrates the ability to SOMEWHAT apply the principles or skills learned in the course in a manner that would meet the BARE basic requirement at this level.

**Grade D+ / Pass (Plus): BARELY SATISFACTORY performance on A FEW learning outcomes.**

Addresses the course inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in some areas while responding minimally with possibly tangential content in others.

**Grade D / Pass: ALMOST BARELY satisfactory performance on VERY FEW learning outcomes.**

Addresses the course inadequately by meeting the basic requirement at this level only in very few areas while responding very minimally with possibly tangential content in others.

**Grade F / Failure: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.**

Fails to address the course and likely does not understand what the course requires. In other words, the work completely misses the point.