

Department of English
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ENGE3250 OTHER LITERATURES IN ENGLISH
(An Introduction to the African Novel)

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to African literature. Indeed, it is a course that introduces you to the work of four of the most widely-respected African authors – Amos Tutuola, Chinua Achebe, Pepetela, and J.M. Coetzee. After first questioning the meaning of the very term “African literature,” we go on to highlight and examine some of the most salient features and issues surrounding African literature – most explicitly, those relating to colonialism, the novel form in Africa, languages of Europe as literary languages of Africa, the tension between traditionalism and the African novel, and the relationship between politics and the African novel.

Learning Outcome

By the end of the course, you should be able to appreciate another dimension in the scale and diversity of writing in English. In addition, you should be able to articulate some of the key problems with using the phrase “African literature” while expressing some of the salient features of African literature. Finally, and by way of a well-reasoned essay, you should be able to give informed comment on some of the major issues confronting African literature today.

Reading List (in order of address)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958)
Amos Tutuola, *Palm-Wine Drinkard* (1952)
Pepetela, *The Return of the Water Spirit* (1995)
J.M. Coetzee, *Foe* (1986)

Assessment

Seminar Preparation/Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation	15%
In-Class Essay	20%
Formal Essay	55%

Department of English

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.