

Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, SJSU
MA Exam Reading List: Group 2

1900-Present Global Anglophone Literature

Global Anglophone Literature refers to literature in English produced beyond the “core” English-speaking countries (Great Britain, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) to include the postcolonial countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Since British and American literatures are extensively covered in other exam areas, this list focuses mainly on literature in English from other countries. As a transnational field, global anglophone literature does not fit neatly into the frame of the national. As a product of the global history of English imperialism, it strongly reflects the hegemony of the English language. Students should therefore get a broad historical understanding of English imperialism and familiarize themselves with significant issues in postcolonial literary studies by reading at least one of the introductions to postcolonial literature recommended in the list. Questions about the role and use of the English language, including whether a writer from a non-English/non-western culture can or should write in English, how and in whose English, etc. are addressed in the small sample of criticism included in the list. Because the novel is arguably the dominant form of global anglophone literature (despite considerable literary output in other genres), the majority of the titles on this list are anglophone novels from around the world. Questions about the novel, its origins, growth, spread, adaptations, transformations, appropriations, aesthetics etc. are therefore central to the field. Other significant topics include (but are not limited to) the following: orientalism, imperialism, (neo)colonialism, nationalism, capitalism, tradition and modernity, westernization, identity, race, class, gender, sexuality, feminism, war, conflict and violence, urbanization and the city, nature and environment, human/humanity, modes of representation.

Anglophone lit:

1. **Joseph Furphy** (1843-1912) *Such is Life*
2. **Jean Rhys** (1890-1979) *Wide Sargasso Sea*
3. **C.L.R. James** (1901-1989) *Minty Alley*
4. **R.K. Narayan** (1906-2001) *The Guide*
5. **Patrick White** (1912-) *Voss, A Fringe of Leaves*
6. **Amos Tutuola** (1920-1997) *The Palm Wine Drunkard*
7. **Nadine Gordimer** (1923-) *July's People OR Burger's Daughter*
8. **Chinua Achebe** (1930-2013) *Things Fall Apart*
9. **Derek Walcott** (1930-) *Omeros OR Selected Poems*
10. **[Edward] Kamau Brathwaite** (1930-) *The Arrivants: A New World Trilogy*
11. **V.S. Naipaul** (1932-2018) *A House for Mr. Biswas*
12. **Wole Soyinka** (1934) *A Dance of the Forests*
13. **David Malouf** (1934-) *Remembering Babylon OR The Conversations at Curlew Creek*
14. **Bessie Head** (1937-1986) *A Question of Power*
15. **Ngugi wa Thiong'o** (1938-) *Petals of Blood OR Devil on the Cross*
16. **Bapsi Sidhwa** (1938-) *Cracking India*
17. **Margaret Atwood** (1939-) *The Handmaid's Tale OR Cat's Eye*
18. **Buchi Emecheta** (1944-) *Joys of Motherhood*
19. **Keri Hulme** (1947-) *Bone People*
20. **Salman Rushdie** (1947-) *Midnight's Children OR Satanic Verses*
21. **Jamaica Kincaid** (1949-) *A Small Place OR Lucy*
22. **Jessica Hagedorn** (1949-) *Dogeaters*
23. **George Lamming** (1953-) *In the Castle of My Skin*
24. **Amitav Ghosh** (1956-) *The Hungry Tide, OR In an Antique Land*
25. **Ha Jin** (1956-) *Waiting, Under the Red Flag*
26. **Arundhati Roy** (1961-) *God of Small Things OR Ministry of Utmost Happiness*
27. **Edwidge Danticat** (1969-) *Krik? Krak!*
28. **Witi Ihimaera** (1944-) *The Whale Rider*
29. **Kate Grenville** (1950-) *The Secret River*
30. **Tsitsi Dangarembga** (1959-) *Nervous Conditions*
31. **Helon Habila** (1967-) *Oil on Water*
32. **Kiran Desai** (1971-) *The Inheritance of Loss*
33. **Kamila Shamsie** (1973-) *Burnt Shadows OR Homefire*
34. **Aravind Adiga** (1974-) *The White Tiger*
35. **John Agard** "listen mr oxford don" (poem)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03064220600744677?journalCode=rioc20>

35. Criticism:

- (a) **Achebe**: English and the African Writer (pdf)
- (b) **Ngugi**: The Language of African Literature (pdf)
- (c) **Raja Rao**: Foreword to Kantapura

https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.475734/2015.475734.Kanthapura_djvu.txt

- (d) One of the following introductions to Postcolonial Literature

Ashcroft et al (eds.) *The Empire Writes Back*

Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*

Innes, *The Cambridge Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures in English*

Sample Questions:

1. Examine how the conflict between tradition and modernity is treated in three texts from the reading list.
2. Using three texts from the reading list, show how postcolonial writers “write back to empire” by appropriating, subverting, or challenging canonical Western texts. Your essay must examine specific strategies and techniques used in each text.
3. Colonialism and the English language constitute the twin foundations of Anglophone literature as a field. Using three texts from the reading list analyze how colonialism and/or the English language shapes the work in terms of plot, theme, character, form or style.

Updated 4/13/23