

English 2510WA/WAO: Global Literature in English

Course Location: ATAC5041 and OA2020

Class Times: TTH 11:30am–1pm

Prerequisites: 1FCE in English; or 2nd year standing; or permission of chair.

Should you require information or documents in another format, please let us know. We are happy to help you.

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Instructor Information

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Course Description

A study of literature and cultural expression in English from around the world, including Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific, with an emphasis on Indigenous texts. English is a global language, spoken by over a billion people who have creatively

reshaped it to tell stories that reflect their diverse social, historical, political and cultural contexts. These stories both respond to colonial histories, and promote cultural continuity. Issues of nationalism, colonialism, globalization, indigeneity, migration and race will be studied through a variety of literary, cultural, and theoretical texts.

Learner Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- read global texts critically, and assess their rhetorical, ideological and aesthetic strategies.
- identify the conventions of a variety of genres, and identify ways in which individual texts work within, or expand, those genres.
- analyse specific literary, visual, and oral devices and explain how those devices contribute to the meaning of a text.
- explain the role of contemporary storytelling in articulating and creating understandings of global and national cultures and identities.
- explain how literature is produced by, and produces, its historical and cultural contexts.
- identify and assess the social, environmental and other ethical themes presented in texts.
- explain how global literature in English works as a tool for decolonization.
- write well (grammatically correct, clear, effective prose).
- communicate ideas effectively and coherently.
- use library resources to research a topic and use what they discover to illuminate a text.

Course Resources

Required Course Books:

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Binti*. Tor, 2015.

Pilkington, Doris. *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*. U of Queensland P, 1996.

Taylor, Drew Hayden. *The Night Wanderer*. Annick Press, 2007

Other texts are available online (see schedule) and on D2L

Course Website:

There is a Desire2Learn site for the course, on which you will find course resources such as an ecopy of this outline, powerpoints from lectures, and links to course materials and other useful web sources.

Course Schedule

January 7: Introduction

January 9: [This is Nollywood](#)

January 14: Edward Kamau Brathwaite, ["Nation Language"](#) and "Caliban" (D2L); Louise Bennett ["Bans a Killin"](#)

January 16: The Black Atlantic (D2L); Louise Bennett ["Colonization in Reverse"](#) and "Back to Africa" (D2L)

January 21: Mutabaruka ["Dis Poem"](#); Discussion Question #1

January 23: *Binti*

January 28: *Binti*, Discussion Question #2

January 30: "Checkov and Zulu" (D2L)

February 4: "Checkov and Zulu"; "Squatter" (D2L); **Short Essay Due**

February 6: "Squatter"

February 11: [Qahera](#); Discussion Question #3

February 13: [Qahera](#)

Reading Week

February 25: *The Night Wanderer*; **Major Paper Proposal Due**

February 27: *The Night Wanderer*; from *The Red Atlantic* (D2L); Discussion Question #4

March 3: *The Night Wanderer*

March 5: "Legends are Born, not Made" (D2L)

Friday March 6: Last day to drop fall term classes without academic penalty.

March 10: *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*; Discussion Question #5

March 12: *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*

March 17: *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*

March 19: *Bran Nue Day* (D2L)

March 24: *Bran Nue Day*

March 26: "A Way of Talking" (D2L); **Major Paper Due**

March 31: [Hunt for the Wilderpeople](#); Discussion Question #6

April 2: *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*

April 9: Take Home Exam

Assignments and Evaluation

Table of Assignments

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Discussion Questions	Throughout term	10%	1 paragraph each
Short Essay	February 4	20%	1000 words maximum
Proposal for Major Paper	February 25	10%	500 words maximum + bibliography
Major Paper	March 26	30%	2000 words maximum
Take Home Exam	Exam Period	30%	3 hours

Assignment Policies

- All assignments are individual assignments and cannot be completed collaboratively.
- Except for discussion questions, assignments are due **by 4:30pm** on the dates indicated.
- Assignments should be submitted online (in the "Assignments" section of the course D2L site), in either docx or pdf format.

- If you require an extension on an assignment, you must ask for one **BEFORE** the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late assignments will be penalized by 2% per day (to a maximum of 20%).
- All assignments must be in MLA (8th edition).
- All written work must be double spaced, with 1" margins, and in 12-point font.
- Exceptions to these policies are allowed with a doctor's note or other appropriate documentation.

Details of Assignments

Discussion Questions:

Length: 1 paragraph each (5-7 sentences)

Weight: 10% (2% for each satisfactorily completed assignment)

Due: 11:30am on the day they will be discussed.

1. January 21: What is the significance of the metafictional focus (ie. the fact that it is a poem about the poem itself) of Mutabaruka's "[Dis Poem](#)"?
2. January 28: What does *Binti* have to say about the relationship between education and tradition?
3. February 11: What is the significance of the burkha in [Qahera](#)?
4. February 27: What does Owl/Pierre suggest about an Indigenous diaspora in *The Night Wanderer*?
5. March 10: What is the effect of the history of the colonization of Australia that begins *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*?
6. March 31: How does humour function in [Hunt for the Wilderpeople](#)?

There are no extensions on the discussion questions, and they will not be accepted after they are discussed in class but there are six opportunities to submit, so you can miss one and still get full marks.

Short Essay:

Length: Maximum 1000 words

Weight: 20%

Due: February 4, 2020.

Write a short essay applying what we have learned in class to a new text. You have two main options:

1. Explain one major theme that allows a Nollywood movie to work as "Education."
2. Provide a close reading of a Louise Bennet or Mutabaruka poem.

The texts you can work from are located on the course D2L site. The essay must prove a thesis about the text you choose. Research is not required, but you must cite your primary text and any other sources you use.

Major Paper:

Length: 1500-2000 words

Weight: 30%

Due: March 26, 2020.

Your major paper for the course will be a well-researched, well-argued paper that you will be working on throughout the term. Your proposal and paper will be a response to one of the following topics, and will relate the topic to texts on the course. Your essay can be either on one text or comparative. Note that these topics are all very broad and you will need to narrow them down to prove a precise, analytic thesis.

1. The interrelationship of the global and the local.
2. Representations of diaspora.
3. The relationship between place and identity.
4. Family relationships.
5. Transforming the English language.
6. Using speculative genres and intertexts to deal with realist issues.
7. A topic of your own choosing.

Proposal and Bibliography

Length: Maximum 500-word proposal + bibliography

Weight: 10%

Due: February 25, 2020.

You will submit a proposal for your major paper. Your proposal should explain:

- a) What you intend to research and discuss, being explicit about what texts and topic you will be addressing.
- b) What you hope to prove (your working thesis)
- c) How you will pursue your topic, including how you will situate your argument in existing sources.
- d) The significance of your topic.
- e) Your medium and the reason for it (if you are proposing to use a medium other than a standard essay).

Your bibliography must include at least three secondary sources that go beyond the assigned texts for the course. You should also include your primary texts and any secondary course texts you plan to use. At least two of your secondary texts must be scholarly sources.

Final Exam

Weight: 30%

There will be a three-hour, essay-based, take home exam due during the exam period, that will ask you to put together texts from across the course.

Class Participation

There is no formal mark for participation in this class; however, active engagement with the class material will help students succeed in the assignments and final exam. As well, up to 3% bonus marks for participation will be available to students who provide exceptional contributions to class participation, or whose class participation shows an understanding of class material that goes beyond their written work.

Marking Standards

All assignments will be marked in accordance with the English Department Marking Standards¹.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should view the Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity – for a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the Code of Student Behaviour - Academic Integrity².
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code³. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS)⁴ and register as early as possible.
- This course outline is available online through the English Department homepage⁵ and/or the Desire2Learn or My CourseLink¹ site for the course.

¹ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english/marking-standards>

² <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>

³ <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>

⁴ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

⁵ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english>