ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL STUDIES PhD PROGRAMME

LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

Berkem Sağlam, PhD.

**ELL 642 Literatures in English (3 0 3) 7.5 ECTS**

This course may engage with texts in two overlapping areas: literature by writers outside Britain and the United States or by émigrés, produced or widely circulated in English; or literature in English produced in former British colonies (excluding the United States).

The first area includes works from former French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and other colonies, and may include such writers as the Djebar, Khadra and Jelloun in North Africa; or Borges, Neruda, Paz, Márquez, Fuentes, Llosa, Amado and Lispector in South America. The course may also choose to consider texts from other countries which have been written in English or acquired global mainstream circulation in English translation, such as the works of Japanese writers like Mishima, Ōe, Murakami and Ishiguro; or of the Chinese authors Gao Xingjian, Mo Yan, Ha Jin, and Amy Tan.

The second area covers a wide range of literature affiliated with postcolonial studies and the study of Commonwealth literature, which may provide other perspectives. Texts to be discussed may include works by such writers as Naipaul and Hodge (Trinidad); Kincaid (Antigua), Rhys (Dominica), Seth, Rushdie and Mukherjee (India), Kureishi (Pakistan), Ondaatje (Sri Lanka), Thiong’O (Kenya), Tutuola, Achebe, Soyinka and Okri (Nigeria), Coetzee, Fugard and Gordimer (South Africa); or Mahfouz and Saadawi (Egypt).

The course may choose to look at common motifs and historical experience in the selected texts, or study differences in the geopolitical and cultural contexts of writing and circulation; or in language, and literary style; or explore various theoretical perspectives across national traditions.

**Requirements :**

Term paper – a 10-15 page paper discussing an issue of your choice based on class discussions. A list of texts will be provided for you to choose from. (35 %)

Term paper presentation – a presentation about your paper for your class mates. Providing a couple of excerpts from your text beforehand will make this easier to follow. (5 %)

Final Exam – a comprehensive exam based on the texts we have studied throughout the term.

(35 %)

Critical Essay presentations – students will present two critical essays written about each longish text (preferably with a differing focus) that we discuss in class. Handouts about the key concepts will be helpful. You are also expected to hand in a response essay with these. (15 %)

Class participation (10 %) – My assumption is that you will attend each and every class unless there is imminent danger to yourself or others.

Please obtain your own copies of the following texts:

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

**\*** By week 4, you need to have additionally read Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* (please get a copy of this too). We will refer to it throughout our analysis of Rhys’s novel.

**Weekly Schedule**

25. 09. 2019 Salman Rushdie, “‘Commonwealth Literature’ does not exist”

Xiaolu Guo, “One Language is not Enough – I write in both Chinese and English”

02. 10. 2019 Edward Said, from *Orientalism* (Mongia 20-36)

Aijaz Ahmad,”The Politics of Literary Postcoloniality” (Mongia 276-293)

09. 10. 2019 Nadine Gordimer, “Six Feet of the Country” (Thieme 96-104)

Homi Bhabha, “The Other Question” (Mongia 37-54)

Ella Shohat, “Notes on the Post-colonial” (Mongia 322-334)

16. 10. 2019 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

23. 10. 2019 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

30. 10. 2019 Ashcroft et al., selections from *The Empire Writes Back*

Grace Nichols, “One Continent/To Another”

Valerie Bloom, “Language Barrier”

06. 11. 2019 Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party”

Witi Ihimaera, “This Life is Weary”

13. 11. 2019 Salman Rushdie, “At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers” (pdf)

Bharati Mukherjee, “Angela,” “A Father”

20. 11. 2019 Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

27. 11. 2019 Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

04. 12. 2019 Hacettepe Conference on fear

11. 12. 2019 J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

18. 12. 2019 J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

25. 12. 2019 Presentations & paper due