

University of Alaska Fairbanks

ENG 200 - Section F01

World Literature and Global Issues

Term: Spring 2010	Professor: Dr. Alla Ivanchikova
Time: MWF F01-9.15-10.15	Office: 810 Gruening
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Course description and objectives

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to some of the pressing global issues as presented in world literature. During the course of the term, you will read a variety of stories written in different parts of the world. You will learn about cultural differences and the complexities of cross-cultural communication. You will also become familiarized with the context in which these stories were written by learning basic facts about the world's geography, its colonial and post-colonial history, and some of its contemporary economic and political challenges.

The course is an excellent opportunity to broaden your horizons, learn new facts about various cultures worldwide. It is also an opportunity to acquire valuable critical thinking skills through an encounter with complex literary texts. You will learn how to analyze fiction and write about literature. We will focus on writers from around the globe, who engage in a dialogue with the Western world and European tradition.

There will be one research essay, weekly in-class assignments, a group project, one mid term, and one final examination for this course.

Course syllabus and schedule

The complete course syllabus is available **online** – all students are **REQUIRED** to familiarize themselves with the course policies, evaluation criteria, plagiarism policy, and other requirements as posted on the course website. The website also contains a detailed class schedule and a list of required books. Just type in the following address in your internet browser: <http://lectureguru.net>. Proceed by selecting your course / section from the green table.

There will be additional readings for this course. The instructor will make these reading available to students through e-reserve system. Students are responsible for printing these materials out before the class.

Students should have access to an **MLA style writing guide**. Information about MLA formatting is available free online at:

- <http://www.docstyles.com/mlaguide.htm> and
- www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html.

REMEMBER: You are responsible for your success in this course. If at any point in the year you have questions or concerns, it is up to you to consult the professor. You are always welcome to visit during office hours or to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course.

Books (required)

- *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Sheldon Anderson, Jeanne A.K.Hey, Mark Allen Peterson, Stanley W. Toops, and Charles Stevens. Westview Press, Miami, 2008.
- Ali, Monica. *Brick Lane*. Oxford University Press, New York, 2003
- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor Canada, 2009. (or any other edition)
- Articles posted on E-Reserve (Access password is “worldlit”)

Evaluation and grading criteria

Overall, both the success of this course and your final mark will depend of each your individual contribution to class discussions and on your willingness to work on improving your writing and analytical thinking skills. This is a workshop-based course in which class discussions and group activities will be essential to your success. In-class assignments will vary, but will include freewriting, brief responses to the assigned readings, quizzes, and discussion summaries. It is therefore extremely important to come prepared and to do your readings at home. Though there will be weekly lectures to introduce the basics, the course will stress student participation in group discussions.

In order to earn credit for ENG200, you **must** complete the following components of the course: the research paper, the midterm, and the final examination. This course will **not** be graded on a curve. Missing assignments will receive a 0 mark. Late assignments are subject to penalty (see details below).

Categories	Dates	Value
<u>Quizzes and written assignments</u>	Daily in class	15 points
<u>Mid term test</u>	Friday, Mar. 5	20 points
<u>Research paper</u>	Wed, Mar. 17	20 points
<u>Final examination</u>	To be scheduled	40 points

<u>Group project presentation</u>	Apr. 30 - May 5	5 points
Total		100 points = 100%

Attendance: Your attendance and participation are central to your success of this course. Students are urged to attend classes regularly. You are allowed one week of unexcused absences (of 3 classes), for which you don't need to provide the reason. It is my understanding that sometimes we just have to skip a class to attend to other important aspects of our lives. If you have to miss a class due to illness or an emergency, you will be required to provide appropriate documentation. Additional (undocumented) absences will affect your grade adversely.

Lateness: Please note that frequent lateness will impact your grade. If you arrive late, try to cause as little disturbance as possible. Students who are late to class (more than 5 min) will have a 1/2 of unexcused lateness note in my grade book. The same policy will apply to students that leave the class early. If you have to leave early due to a legitimate reason, please arrange this with me before the class: no 1/2 unexcused lateness note will be added.

Participation: Regular participation in our class discussions can earn you up to 5 extra points. To earn the full 5 points, you should participate every time (or close to that). To summarize all of the above, coming to class unprepared, arriving late, failing to provide thoughtful responses to the readings will affect your grade. In order to get the highest score, you must regularly participate in class discussions, demonstrate knowledge of the material covered and be proactive in seeking help if such need arises.

Assignments

Research essay:

There will be 1 research essay you will write for this course (5-7 pages). Please note that 5 pages is the **minimum** requirement for this assignment. No essay under 5 pages will be accepted. Please visit the [assignments](#) section on the left-side navigation menu to find details about this essay.

Essays will be due **BEFORE** the class on the date marked in the outline. Electronic submissions will not be accepted; it is your responsibility to print out your work and submit it on time! Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Please use Microsoft Word or a comparable word processing program and submit clearly printed, proofread essays. All essays will require a title page with your name, student number, the course number, the date, and the essay title clearly printed. Use Times New Roman font (12 pt.), double-spaced formatting, with 1 inch margins. Each page should be numbered. Handwritten essays will not be accepted. Improperly formatted assignments will result in penalties.

Essays will be evaluated based on their content, structure, technical aspects and improvement.

- Content component includes originality, clarity, arguments, the use of sources.

- Essay structure component includes the overall design of the essay (intro, thesis statement, body paragraphs, conclusion, etc), stylistic components (such as connections between the paragraphs or individual sentences), and a sense of audience.
- Technical aspects include grammar, style, typos, bibliography and referencing, formatting.
- Improvement aspect – overall development as compared to earlier efforts (e.g. drafts shared with me during my office hours).

Late Assignment Penalties: Submitting an essay late will result in marks being deducted (normally, half letter grade for each day the paper is late, including weekends). To avoid penalties, you must speak with me in advance if you anticipate handing an assignment in late due to special circumstances, such as illness or a personal/family emergency. **Remember that having a lot of work to do for your other courses is not a reasonable excuse for a late assignment in this course.** Unless prior arrangements have been made or you present a medical/legal note explaining why your assignment has been handed in late, points will be deducted. **No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after they are 7 days late.** All requests for extensions should be made in person or, if you are unable to attend class or office hours, by phone. Email requests for extensions will not be acknowledged. No late assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes. Late assignments will receive a grade only (no written comments).

Quizzes and in-class written assignments:

Quizzes and short in-class written assignments (long answer questions) will be offered regularly in this course. These in-class assignments are designed to assist you in managing the information load and prepare for the mid term and final examinations.

Midterm examination:

The take-home final exam will be based on the material covered both in the readings and in class discussions. The exam will contain both multiple choice and essay questions. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the UAF Calendar. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.

Final examination:

The cumulative final exam will be based on the material covered both in the readings and in class discussions. The exam will contain both multiple choice and long answer questions; additionally, you will be asked to write a short essay in response to a question. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.

Group project:

There will be one group project developed collectively in groups of 5-6. Detailed explanations can be found on the course website (lectureguru.net). One or more students

will be selected from each group to present the project (10-15 min long). Group projects will count towards 5 % of your final grade and are important as they give you a chance to connect, share ideas and get feedback from the other members of the class. There will be 3 days set aside for group members to meet during the class time.

Grade definitions as suggested by the University of Alaska Fairbanks:

A = An honor grade, indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject, and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required

B = Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance

C = Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance

D = The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance

F = Indicates failure to meet lowest standards

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will not be tolerated in this course. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the **UAF standards** and policies concerning plagiarism. In general, plagiarism involves borrowing someone else's ideas, sentences, phrases, or terms without referencing them in the text. Improper referencing, quoting or paraphrasing can result in plagiarism. In this class, we will discuss the basic differences between quoting, paraphrasing, and plagiarizing and learn how to avoid plagiarism. Word for word plagiarizing will always result in a 0 mark for an assignment. Any student who will submit a paper not written by him or herself (such as a paper purchased or downloaded from the web) will fail the entire course, even if parts of the downloaded paper were modified.

Students are advised to consult the **UAF Student Code of Conduct** for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including **plagiarism**, and appeals.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Friday, March 26, 2010 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in January 2010.

Classroom courtesy

- All students are expected to maintain a courteous atmosphere in the classroom treating each other with respect.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before the class starts.
- Laptops will not be allowed and must be turned off and stored away before the class starts.

Students with special needs

Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, 208 Whitaker, at 474-5655 or 474-1827 (TTY) to discuss appropriate options. All information about disability is confidential.