

LIT 436: Non-Western Literature**Fall 2014****Section 1****12:15p-1:10p MWF****Classroom: BAC 155****Dr. James Wicks****Office: BAC 125****Extension: 2590****E-mail: jwicks@pointloma.edu****Office Hours: T/R 12:30p-2:30p
and by appointment****Non-Western Literature**

In this class we will analyze literature from around the globe in terms of geography, history, and culture. Our survey will begin with ancient literatures that have been vastly influential, including *The Bhagavad Gita*, the life of Buddha, and both Confucian and Daoist works. We then move through the disparate yet interlocking experiences of mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong as represented in fiction, poetry, and cinema. Next, we will read the influential ideas of Edward Said and literature from the regions of Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, and then conclude with the brilliant, strange, and wonderful short stories by the Japanese author Haruki Murakami.

In the process of evaluating these literatures, we will engage in conversations with cultural theorists, theologians, philosophers, and historians who are who are interested in a variety of questions regarding gender, ethnicity, class, postmodernism, postcolonialism, and theories of transnationalism. Students are required to complete all readings and film viewings, write a theme analysis essay, four film responses, and a term paper with outside sources, and take a mid-term and final exam.

Catalog Description

An advanced study of literature from non- European and non-American countries, covering primarily African and Asian writings. Includes a variety of eras and genres, placing the works within their cultural contexts.

Required Texts

Johnson, W J. *The Bhagavad Gita*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

Cardenal, Ernesto, and Jonathan Cohen. *Pluriverse: New and Selected Poems*. New York: New Directions Pub, 2009.

Buddha, Confucius, Zhuangzi: Readings.

Lau, Joseph S. M, and Howard Goldblatt. *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Mernissi, Fatima. *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. Reading, Mass: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co, 1994.

Murakami, Haruki, Philip Gabriel, and Jay Rubin. *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman: Twenty-four Stories*. New York: Knopf, 2006.

Said, Edward W. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994. Print.

Soyinka, Wole, and Simon Gikandi. *Death and the King's Horseman: Authoritative Text : Backgrounds and Contexts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, 2003. Print.

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 2000. Print.

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions: A Novel*. New York: Seal Press, 1989. Print.

In addition: required films and various recommended readings and handouts distributed by both the professor and peers.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Closely read (comprehension, analysis) and critically analyze (analysis) texts in their original languages and/or in translation. **(PLO 2,3, 5)**
2. Recall (knowledge), identify (knowledge), and use (application) fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts
 - a. Standard literary terminology
 - b. Modes/genres of literature
 - c. Elements of literary genres
 - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - e. Contemporary critical approaches
 - f. Extra-literary research **(PLO 2, 3, 5)**
3. Analyze (analysis) the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect (synthesis, evaluation) the texts with their own lives. **(PLO 1)**
4. Create (synthesis, evaluation) detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works employing secondary sources and applying concepts of literary study and literary theory. **(PLO 3, 4)**

PLNU Mission: To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Policies and Requirements

Attendance: *Attendance is required. Missing class for other than medical emergencies or excused absences will affect your grade, as per the University Catalog.* Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

Class Preparation: All assignments must be completed prior to the assigned due date and time. Some assignments will be discussed in class while others will be completed individually but not discussed.

Class Participation: *Regular* contributions to class discussion are expected, including but not restricted to discussions of weekly readings, related experiential exercises, and open dialogue. Despite the size of the class, I want everyone to feel compelled to share their thoughts on assigned readings. Enthusiastic and responsible participation in assigned group projects (in-class and outside of class) is expected of all.

Late Paper Policy: Hand in your assignment in on time. Otherwise, a late submission will be penalized: 1st) by a 1/3 drop of a grade on the due date if submitted after the class has started, 2nd) by a letter grade if submitted after class on the due date or delivered outside of class on the due date, and 3rd) by an additional letter grade for each day late following the assignment due date. Unless pre-arranged,

assignments more than a week late will not be graded. No “make-ups” to in-class work will be accepted unless there is an emergency, illness, or excused absence.

E-Mail: Please use e-mail for simple, logistical questions or clarifications. Write: “LIT 448” in the subject line. Allow 1 business day for a reply.

Cell phones and computers: may be used for classroom related activities only.

Public Discourse: Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and/projects; thus you should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others in the class.

Inclusive Language: *Because the Literature, Journalism, and Modern Language department recognizes the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, will be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.* These academic style guides provide background information and good examples of how to maintain non-sexist language use in your writing.

Academic Honesty/ Policy on Plagiarism: Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

Academic Accommodations: While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students must request that academic accommodations by filing documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student’s instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

Final Examination: *The published time for the final examination is one of the considerations when enrolling for a course. Students are expected to arrange their personal affairs to fit the examination schedule.* Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

FERPA Policy: In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic

roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the (undergrad/ graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

LJML Department Policies: <http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/schools-departments/department-literature-journalism-modern-languages/programs>

Grading

20%	class participation
	10% class discussion; students bring 1 pg. of notes to class each class period
	10% one (1) author presentation and one (1) class discussion paper
10%	film notes
10%	theme analysis essay
20%	midterm exam
5%	complete term paper rough draft
15%	term paper
20%	final exam

Grading Scale

94-100	A
90-93	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-83	B-
78-79	C+
73-77	C
70-73	C-
60-69	D

Assignment Descriptions

Paper Format: Papers are written in MLA Style. Hardcopy papers are stapled and all papers are typed and double-spaced. Submit assignments in black ink on 8.5"x11" white paper. Use a non-decorative 12-point font, such as Times New Roman, and use 1" margins. Please do not include title pages. Include page numbers. Use the MLA website or a current MLA style guide for style, grammar, format and citation questions.

Class Participation

Author Presentation Objective: Type an author biography in a bullet-point/ brochure-type format.

Form: Length: 1 page. Make photocopies so each class participant has a copy. Read your author presentation in class (10-15 minutes). Creativity is encouraged.

Class Discussion Paper Objective: Write a reader-response to the assigned class reading.

Form: 1.5- 2 pages. Summarize important details from -- but not the plot in -- the assigned text, offer your critical assessment of key themes, and contribute questions that facilitate class discussion. Make photocopies so each class participant has a copy. Read your class discussion paper in class (10-15 minutes), and be prepared to guide the subsequent class discussion.

Film Notes

Objective: Record notes based on your observations of the assigned film that includes your point of view supported by evidence in the film. You may write your notes in the form of bullet points or prose. Either way, the page requirement remains at 1 page minimum.

Form: 1 page, and more if you would like. Outside sources optional; if so, include a Works Cited page.

Theme Analysis Essay

Objective: Write an academic argument on one narrowly defined topic based on your assessment of the readings.

Form: 2.5 pages; *page requirement strictly enforced*. No outside sources.

Term Paper

Objective: Explore a selected text (of your choice from the course readings) further by locating secondary sources. Engage in dialogue with the writers you discover in your research. Include your primary text and at least four outside resources not located online in your works cited page.

Form: 10 pages, staple photocopies of the first page and quoted sections of all outside resources to your essay; *page requirement strictly enforced*.

Midterm and Final Examinations

Objective: Use relevant examples from the lectures, readings, and films to respond to questions that take into account the content of the course.

Form: In-class, written, open-note/book examinations.

Evaluation of Papers

The following questions will be considered when papers are evaluated and graded. All questions may not be relevant to each assignment.

- Does the paper respond to assignment objective?
- Does the paper make an argument?
- Is the claim clear and plausible? Is it stated and contextualized effectively?
- Is there sufficient and relevant evidence to ground the claim?
- Does the paper effectively select and use material from the course readings to support and validate the analysis? Does it summarize, paraphrase, and quote effectively?
- Does the paper use all relevant details from the readings both to support the claim and to provide a context for the case being made? Does it ignore material that should be taken into account?
- Does the paper demonstrate an awareness of how the argument being proposed fits into the larger set of claims made about the topic in our course readings?
- Does the paper work through the complexities of the material (as opposed to oversimplifying or overgeneralizing)?
- Is the paper well organized?
- Does it cite material from the sources using MLA documentation style?
- Are there sentence structure problems or grammatical errors that interfere with the meaning?

Course Schedule *Subject to Change*

Week	Date	Schedule	Assignment Due
1	9/3	W Introduction to the course	
	9/5	F Ashvaghosha, <i>Life of Buddha</i>	
2	9/8	M <i>Confucius; Laozi/ Zhuangzi</i>	
	9/10	W <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (1-44)	
	9/12	F <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (45-81)	F: CDP
3	9/15	M <i>To Live</i> (Zhang, 1995)	
	9/17	W <i>Three Times</i> (Hou, 2005)	W: Film Notes 1 (<i>To Live</i>)
	9/19	F <i>Chungking Express</i> (Wong, 1994)	F: Film Notes 2 (<i>T. Times</i>)
4	9/22	M Lu Xun (3-21), Mao Dun (56-73)	M: AP
	9/24	W 1918-1949 (499-526) Cultural Rev. (538-9, 563-4)	
	9/26	F Gao Xingjian (329-36), Alai (470-9), C.S. (480-95)	
5	9/29	M Taiwan Poetry (529-530, 533-537, 540-562)	
	10/1	W Bai Xianyong (210-223)	
	10/3	F Chen Yingzhen, (204-209), Huang Chunming	F: CDP

Week	Date	Schedule	Assignment Due
6	10/6	M Poetry, 1976-present (567-606)	M: Film Notes 3 (<i>CK Exprss</i>)
	10/8	W Xi Xi (303-313), Zhu Tianwen (388-402), Qiu Miaojin (455-461)	
	10/10	F Discussion and Context: Southeast Asia	F: Theme Analysis Essay
7	10/13	M <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> , Said: xi-xxviii, 1-19, 31-43	
	10/15	W <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> , Said: 43-80, 209-220	W: CDP
	10/17	F <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i> (3-63)	F: AP
8	10/20	M plus: two secondary readings of choice	M: two rhetorical precise
	10/22	W Midterm Examination	
	10/24	F Fall Break Day – no class	
9	10/27	M <i>Nervous Conditions</i> (1-76)	
	10/29	W <i>Nervous Conditions</i> (77-148)	
	10/31	F <i>Nervous Conditions</i> (149-204)	
10	11/3	M <i>Dreams of Trespass</i> (1-82)	M: AP
	11/5	W <i>Dreams of Trespass</i> (83-174)	
	11/7	F <i>Dreams of Trespass</i> (175-242)	F: CDP
11	11/10	M <i>The Two Escobars</i> (Jeff Zimbalist and Michael Zimbalist, 2010)	
	11/12	M Discussion and Central America: Context	W: Film Notes 4
	11/14	W <i>Pluriverse</i> (36-107)	F: AP, <i>Term Paper RD</i>
12	11/17	M <i>Pluriverse</i> (108-147, 154-172, 189-221)	M: CDP
	11/19	W <i>White Teeth</i> (1-70) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	W: AP
	11/21	F <i>White Teeth</i> (71-133) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	
13	11/24	M <i>White Teeth</i> (134-201) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	M: Term Paper
	11/26	W Thanksgiving Recess (No class)	
	11/28	F Thanksgiving Recess (No class)	
14	12/1	M <i>White Teeth</i> (202-314) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	
	12/3	W <i>White Teeth</i> (315-385) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	
	12/5	F <i>White Teeth</i> (386-448) <i>notes on Google Docs</i>	F: CDP
15	12/8	M <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</i> (1-83)	M: AP
	12/10	W <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</i> (84-177)	W: CDP
	12/12	F <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</i> (178-203, 226-248)	
Final Exam: Monday, December 15, 10:30a-1:00p			

* AP: Author Presentation (7)

** CDP: Class Discussion Paper