

ENGL 3365 – Postcolonial Literature *

Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Auritro Majumder

Meeting Time: Tu/Th 11:30-12:50; Room TBA

This course will introduce students to literature from the 1950s to the present, emerging from former colonial spaces like India, the Caribbean, and Africa, as well as their diaspora. It will be relevant to those interested in modern, 20th and 21st century literatures, and the (aftermath of) British Empire. This will be a reading and discussion-based class; writing requirements include an in-class midterm exam and three essays – an 800 word “closing reading,” a 1200-1500 word short paper, and a 3000 word final essay. We will focus on what is meant by the often-seen phrase “postcolonial literature,” and discuss how literary genres such as novel, drama, and poetry function in global and non-Western contexts. Conversely, how do we, as readers in “America,” fit into these conversations?

Possible texts (subject to change): Novels and Drama -- Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1990); Neel Mukherjee, *The Lives of Others* (2014); Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (1988); Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* (1976), in conversation with poetry, cinema and theoretical works of postcolonial literature.

**Petitionable for WGSS