



**Instructor: Stanka Radović**

~ stanka.radovic@utoronto.ca

**Course Number:** ENG270Y5Y

**Course Title:** Colonial & Postcolonial Writing

**Course Description:** Postcolonial literature, emerging in the second half of 20th century, often focuses on the idea of giving voice to the cultures and histories that have been silenced by European colonialism. This “giving voice” to the “silenced” histories and communities is described by Salman Rushdie as the postcolonial authors’ effort to “write back to the centre.” “Writing back” is, in other words, the postcolonial writers’ response to colonial literature in an effort to “decolonize” it. Because an important aspect of colonial power is expressed in its literary “canon” (a body of literature understood as having universal value), we shall juxtapose canonical works of “western” literature to their postcolonial counter-texts in order to understand what “writing back,” “counter-discourse” or “oppositional literature” may mean in the history of Anglophone literary production.

**Required Reading:** William Shakespeare *The Tempest*, Aimé Césaire *A Tempest*, J. Conrad *Heart of Darkness*, Chinua Achebe *Things Fall Apart*, C. Bronte *Jane Eyre*, Jean Rhys *Wide Sargasso Sea*, D. Defoe *Robinson Crusoe*, J.M. Coetzee *Foe*, Marlene Nourbese Philip *Zong!*.

**First Authors to be Studied:** Shakespeare, Césaire, Conrad.

**Method of Instruction:** Class discussions and Lectures.

**Method of Evaluation:** Two essays, in-class tests, reading responses, class participation.