

**Instructor:** S. Radović

**Course:** ENG270Y

**Course Title:** Colonial and Postcolonial Writing

**Course Description:** This course takes as its point of departure Salman Rushdie's influential suggestion that postcolonial authors "write back to the centre." "Writing back" is a way in which postcolonial writers and texts respond to and engage with colonial literature in order to "decolonize" it. Focusing on the colonial "canon" and the postcolonial practice of re-writing it, we shall examine the ways in which language and literature come to represent political and cultural power within colonial and postcolonial literary frameworks. Since 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 within the history of Anglophone literary production.

**Required Reading:** E. M. Forster *A Passage to India*, Salman Rushdie *Shame*, Joseph Conrad *Heart of Darkness*, Wilson Harris *Palace of the Peacock*, Chinua Achebe *Things Fall Apart*, Charlotte Bronte *Jane Eyre*, Jean Rhys *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Charles Dickens *Great Expectations*, Peter Carey *Jack Maggs*, Daniel Defoe *Robinson Crusoe*, J.M. Coetzee *Foe*, V.S. Naipaul *The Mimic Man*, Derek Walcott *Selected Poems*, Bessie Head *Maru*, Marlene Nourbese Philip *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*.

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Forester, Rushdie, Conrad.

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

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