

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: World Literature Since 1650
Prefix and Course Number: ENGL 272

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Discuss innovations in landmark western and non-western texts that reflect and are formed by changing conceptions of the human condition during the past 350 years
- Identify similar and dissimilar values within works of varied regions, cultures, and historical periods
- Trace the persistence of non-western literary traditions during periods of European colonial dominance, as well as the emergence of a genuinely global literature during the Twentieth Century
- Articulate evidence of mutual indebtedness of competing cultural groups between 1650 and the present
- Articulate original critical positions and interpretations of literary works from multiple global traditions, using textual evidence appropriately as support
- Locate, and demonstrate an understanding of, relevant critical or scholarly findings about works of literature written between 1650 and the present, and use these findings to advance insights about primary texts

Course Outline:

(Note: Authors and titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive.)

I. Overview

- A. Scope of the course
- B. Method of selection
- C. Literary Criticism: Issues and Controversies
 - 1. Universalism vs. Cultural Specificity
 - 2. The Power and Limitations of Language

II. Social and Cultural Criticism

- A. Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, Book Four (English)
- B. Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler* (Norwegian)
- C. Camus, "The Guest" (French)
- D. Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman* (Nigerian)
- E. Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Nigerian)

III. Reconstructions of Tradition and History

- A. Joyce, "The Dead" (Irish)
- B. Lessing, "Old Chief Mahlanga" (South African)
- C. Garcia Marquez, "Death Constant Beyond Love" (Columbian)
- D. Mahfouz, "Zaabalawi" (Egyptian)

- E. Munro, "Walker Brothers Cowboy" (Canadian)
- IV. Celebrating the Strengths of the Individual
 - A. Keats, Selected Poems (English)
 - B. Soyinka, "The Swamp Dwellers" (Nigerian)
 - C. Naipual, "The Pyrotechnicist" (Trinidadian)
 - D. Neruda, "The United Fruit Company" (Chilean)
- V. The Critique of Class
 - A. Moliere, Tartuffe (French)
 - B. Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Iyich (Russian)
 - C. Wicomb, "You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town" (South African)
 - D. Ferré, "Mercedes Benz 220L" (Puerto Rican)
 - E. Desai, "The Rooftop Dwellers" (Bengali)
- VI. Women, Power, and the Global Community
 - A. Silko, "Yellow Woman" (American/Laguna Pueblo)
 - B. Head, "The Collection of Treasures" (Botswanan)
 - C. Yoko, "The Spring Storm" (Japanese)
 - D. Mahasweta, "The Breast Giver" (Indian)