

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): The Novel in Africa

Course title (Hebrew): הרומן באפריקה

Course number: 132-1-0260

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): Semester A, Thursday 12-14

Lecturer: Prof. Eitan Bar-Yosef

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details: by appointment, eby@bgu.ac.il

Course description & objectives:

The course examines how historical, cultural, and social developments in Africa—from the European scramble for the “Dark Continent” in the late nineteenth century to postcolonialism and post-Apartheid—have been reflected in a broad range of novels. If earlier texts, mostly by European explorers, have constructed “Africa” as a space for adventure and exploitation, later writers have attempted to appropriate, rewrite and reinvent this textual tradition. By exploring how African writers have been able to challenge those former colonial representations, the course will present the novel as a discursive arena in which different African visions and voices have been articulated.

Course requirements:

Attendance is required

Short Moodle responses 30%

Final paper 70%

The course is taught in English. Students outside the Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics may submit their written work in Hebrew – but should aim, if possible, to write in English.

Topics & bibliography:

Week 1 Introduction + J.M. Coetzee, “The Novel in Africa”

Week 2 Henry Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines* (lecture, no need to read novel)

Week 3 Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Week 4 *Heart of Darkness* (cont.)

Week 5 *Heart of Darkness* (cont.)

Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa”; Hunt Hawkins, “*Heart of Darkness* and Racism”.

- Week 6 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Week 7 *Things Fall Apart* (cont.)
- Week 8 *Things Fall Apart* (cont.)
- Week 9 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Headstrong Historian"
- Week 10 J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*
- Week 11 *Disgrace* (cont.) + Conclusion