

Library Resource Form Required for New Courses

Submission Deadlines: Fall - October 11, 2005 Spring - February 14, 2006

TITLE SPECIAL TOPICS IN NON-WESTERN LITERATURE

Sponsor(s) AFRODESA E MCCANNON e-mail: mccannon@cairn.edu
e-mail:
e-mail:

DEPARTMENT ENGLISH
College LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

If LAS-check: History/Humanities Social/Behavioral Sciences
 Math/Science

UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE

Minor changes to existing General Education course
 Request new or existing course receive the following description:

Writing Intensive Literature
 Multicultural-Global Lab Science

Changes to of a degree or program
 New or Existing General Education Bank:
 Fine/Perform ities
 LAS: Social Science
 Communicational

Signatures Required: representing a

Office of the Senate

Department Chair: _____ Date: 2/9/2006
Department CURRICULUM Chair: _____ Date: 2/7/2006
Academic DEAN: _____ Date: 2-13-06

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: Open Hearing Date: _____
Approved _____
Not Approved NA

Signature: College Curriculum Chair _____
Date: 3/20/06

Signature: SENATE CURRICULUM CHAIR _____
Date: 5/9/06

Comments: _____

Signature: Executive Vice President/Provost: _____
Date: 6/13/06
Approved:
Not Approved: _____

Signature: REGISTRAR _____
Date: 6/19/06 Course Description Received & Approved
Hegis Taxonomy & Course # ENGL 02338

Notification Forward:
 SCC CHAIR Academic Dean
 IR Department Chair
 CAP VP/Student Affairs
 Registrar Other-

SPECIAL TOPICS IN NON-WESTERN LITERATURE

DETAILS

- A. Course Title: Special Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338)
- B. Sponsor: Dr. Afrodesia E. McCannon
- C. Credit Hours: 3 credit hours
- D. Course Level: Junior (300 level)
- E. Prerequisites: none
- F. Implementation:

Time of implementation: Spring 2007;
Frequency of offering: Once every three semesters

CURRICULAR EFFECT

Offerings:

Since this course is an elective, no other course will need to be dropped in order for it to be offered. With the anticipation of a new faculty member who specializes in World literature, no courses should need to be offered less often as a result of the implementation of this course. Should the English department faculty remain at its present number, courses that might be affected are other 300 level elective literature courses.

Adequacy of Present Resources:

At present at least two of our full time faculty members teach courses designated as multicultural/global literature courses. Dr. Catherine Parrish teaches Readings in Asian Literature and Dr. Afrodesia McCannon teaches a wide array of non-Western literature in the Readings in World Literature course. If we should gain an additional faculty member, the number of English Department faculty qualified to teach the course would rise to at least three out of eleven. An additional faculty member would also mean that we could offer the course more often than the projected once every three semesters. No additional costs are expected to arise from the implementation of the course.

Recommended Library Resources:

The present resources of the library are adequate to implement the course. Ongoing communication with the library about the resource needs of different faculty offering the course should help maintain the adequacy of the library's holding.

Short Term Evaluation:
N/A

RATIONALE

The implementation of the Special topics in ^{N-W} Literature (1502.338) course will greatly benefit our students and strengthen the English department as a whole. As issues of global interdependence and understanding increase and as national diversity continues to enrich the United States, the importance of global literature and the cultures it represents only grows more crucial for our students. At present an imbalance exists in the offerings in the English department that this course would remedy.

The Special topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338) course will be the only course specially designed for English Majors that treats the literature of outside of the Western canon as taught in our department. Currently, the only courses offered by the English department in non-Western Literature are general education courses. The department's Readings in Asian literature, for example, does not count towards credits for the English major. English majors are therefore dissuaded from taking the course and barred from knowledge about the literature of Asia, a region that is gaining international prominence and whose people account for a large percentage of Americans and of the students that many of our majors may go on to teach. It is unfortunate that the English majors at Rowan cannot take this course for credit toward the major because it is not designed for them. Special Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338) would allow for an advanced discussion of the one area of literature that the English department has not yet offered. This course would complete the current series of literature in translation that the English department provides. Along with our offerings to the majors in American and British literature, our students can study European literature (French, German, Norwegian, Italian, etc.) and Classical literature (Greek and Latin). The Special Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338) would fill a gap in our course offerings by providing, in translation, the literature of Africa, Asia, and South America as well as any other qualifying world area in which our faculty have knowledge. Additionally, the course would be beneficial to any student at the university who is pursuing studies in the particular world areas the courses would cover.

Although our current multi-cultural/global literature course is titled "Readings in World Literature," for reasons of clarity, the term "non-Western" was chosen for this course to represent the same world regions. Many colleges and universities that offer courses titled "World Literature" use the term to designate literature from any and all world areas and historical periods. Many of our majors have taken World Literature courses at other institutions that would not transfer because their course used a completely different definition to the vague term "World". The three major publishers of textbooks for World Literature -- W. W. Norton, Bedford-Saint Martin's, and Longman -- use the term "World Literature" in the same way -- to describe literature as diverse as the Bible, Chaucer, and literature of West Africa. Thus for this course the term "non-Western literature" was

chosen, non-Western literature being defined as literature from outside the Western (Euro-American) canon. The term “non-Western” is more precise than “world,” yet it also presents difficulties (especially for those countries that straddle Western and non-Western traditions) and raises issues that American academia has yet to solve: what nomenclature to use to express those regions of the world outside of the Euro-American purview? Nevertheless, non-Western is the term many colleges have chosen to most clearly express those area of the world that don’t have a place in their Western curriculum defined as works of the European, North American, and Classical canon. This would be the case in our department where there would be only one designated major course to teach works from parts of the world neglected in our current curriculum and omitted of our definition of the Western canon.

The Special Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338) would be taught by appropriate faculty members in rotation. Leaving the topic open allows for faculty members to teach a variety of courses that correspond to their current research goals or pedagogical interest. By being a Special Topics course, the class allows for flexibility in covering the vast literary terrain contained under the heading of non-Western literature. The openness of the course also permits faculty members to ascertain the interest level of students for a particular topic or world area without being committed to a more rigidly defined course. If a specialist in World Literature joins the English department, as we hope, this course would allow for that person to demonstrate the full range of their expertise to a large percentage of the English majors.

ESSENCE OF THE COURSE

A. Objectives:

- To allow students to gain an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the literature outside the Western (Euro-American) canon and of the cultures the literature represents.
- To develop, through this literature, students’ critical awareness of the literature of other cultures and its relation to canonical Western literature.
- To raise level of consciousness about the global issues of race, class, and gender and the artistic, political, and social implications of a growingly interdependent world.

B. Topical Outline:

The outline will depend on the interest of the faculty member and the particular Special Topic the faculty member is pursuing. See attached sample syllabus.

C. Evaluation:

The evaluation of students and grading procedure will be determined by the concerned faculty member. It will be commensurate with other courses of the same level.

D. Course Evaluation

The success of the course in meeting its goals and objectives will be as for other courses: student evaluations, the reactions of concerned faculty members, and the response of the English Department as a whole.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS

A. Letters of consultation (see attached): Letters of consultation were requested from the Department of Education, the Department of African American Studies, and the Department of Foreign Languages. The consultation letter of Department of Foreign Languages raised an important point which I would like to respond to here. The department objected to the classification of Latin American Literature as non-Western. Latin American literature has been defined as belonging to *both* non-Western and Western Literature. Latin American literature can be considered non-Western because it is outside of the purview of the Western canon defined as European, American and Classical Works. Yet, being deeply influenced by the Western tradition, some Latin American literature has been classified as belonging to the literature of the Western World. For example, Longman Publishing's *Modern Literatures of the Non-Western World* (1995) devotes 352 pages to the works of Latin America and the Caribbean; Prentice Hall includes Latin American (and African) authors in its *Literature of the Western World* (1997). Latin American works could be taught in the proposed course, since the goal of the course is to expose students to works generally outside of the Western canon. Additionally, the proposed course would adhere to the university's definition of multi-cultural/global literature which includes works of Latin America.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Selected Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338)

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This course focuses on significant literary works generally omitted in the Western canon. In this course students will gain an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the literature and cultures of outside of North America and Europe. The changing topic and texts will be chosen by faculty and may treat the literature of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and/or the Caribbean. This course may not be offered annually.

FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Special Topics in Non-Western Literature (1502.338)

This course traces the historical and aesthetic evolution of Francophone literature of Africa, the Maghreb and the Caribbean. Discussions will explore the socio-political framework of colonization and decolonization as well the specificity of each novel in terms of its own aesthetic innovations. The principal objective of the course is to expose the student to a variety of contemporary Francophone literature from Africa and the Caribbean. Focus will be on historical events during the colonial and post-colonial eras that have shaped the authors' fields of reference and authors' evolving relationships to Western literature and culture. Students will learn about socio-cultural and economic traditions and issues in the Francophone world as well the role of France and its relationship with the people and countries of the Francophone world. The course requires short weekly assignments as well as four 5-7 page papers, one on each world area and one comparing Francophone literature from different parts of the world.

Antilles [French West Indies]: (Guadeloupe, Martinique)

Juletane by Myriam Warner-Vieyra

Crossing the Mangrove by Maryse Condé

The Bridge of Beyond by Simone Schwarz-Bart

Maghreb: (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria)

The Forbidden Woman by Malika Mokeddem

The Sand Child by Tahar Ben Jelloun

Sub-Saharan West Africa: (Cameroon, Senegal)

Houseboy, by Ferdinand Oyono

Xala by Ousmane Sembène

Additional critical readings will be available on WebCT

This form **MUST BE COMPLETED FOR NEW COURSE or PROGRAM PROPOSALS, and EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO A COURSE or PROGRAM.**

The purpose of this form is to provide a channel of communication between the Campbell Librarians and faculty when submitting new course or program proposals, or making extensive changes to existing courses or programs. The information will be used to assess the resources available in the library, and to identify resources the library should acquire to support the new courses/programs, or extensive changes to same. The information will also provide the rationale for institutional support for library acquisitions. This form should be completed in a coordinated effort between the course sponsor(s) and the academic department liaison librarian.

Note: Sponsor(s) complete parts A & B
 If assistance is required to complete, please notify the librarian liaison.
 Forward this form to the librarian who will complete parts C, D & E

When form is completed, attach to the original curriculum proposal before submitting to the Senate office.

A. College: LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department: ENGLISH

Proposed by: AFRODESIA MCCANNON

Date: 2/7/2007

COURSE TITLE: SPECIAL TOPICS IN NON-WESTERN LITERATURE

Anticipated Date for Course/Program Offering: SPRING 2007

B. List specific resources that should be acquired to support this course.

LITERARY WORKS BY NON-WESTERN AUTHORS
 CRITICAL WORKS ON NON-WESTERN AUTHORS
 HISTORICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL WORKS ON VARIOUS WORLD REGIONS

C. Describe the resources available in the library to support this course/program, including reference, monographic, electronic databases, audio-visual materials, etc. A summary statement is sufficient.

SEE ATTACHED

D. List key periodicals available in the library to support this course/program.

E. Librarian comments & recommendations:

LIBRARIAN LIAISON: Phyllis Meredith

Signature: Phyllis Meredith

C. Campbell Library has over 100 monographs under the keyword heading of Non-Western Literature. The library subscribes to many electronic resources that can be used for this course. A few of them include;

- i. Academic Search Premier
- ii. JStor
- iii. MLA International Bibliography
- iv. Project Muse
- v. Cultural Briefings
- vi. Humanities
- vii. First Search
- viii. Communication Studies
- ix. Ethnic News Watch
- x. LitFinder

D. Campbell Library currently subscribes to 43 print periodicals that can be used for the purposed course Non-Western Literature, by using the general heading of "Global Literature". Students conducting research for this course have access to hundreds of periodicals using electronic journals or participating in the library's inter-library loan program.

E. Campbell Library has sufficient monographs, periodicals and electronic resources to support research for the proposed course. If specialized materials are needed, such as new databases or journal subscription the library's collection development committee will make the decision following the request.



Foreign Languages and Literatures

MEMO

TO: **Dr. Afrodesia E. McCannon**
FROM: Sonia B. Spencer, Chair
Laurie Kaplis-Howald, Curriculum Chair
RE: Special Topics in Non-Western Literature
DATE: February 13, 2006

This is a memorandum in support of your proposal for a Special Topics in Non-Western Literature course.

The idea of exposing English majors to the literature of a Non-Western region of the world in translation particularly those who will be going on to public school teaching is a good one. We understand as well that NCATE accreditation and subsequently the certification of your majors now requires that students have experience with cultures and literatures reflected in the diverse backgrounds of their prospective students.

Your proposal defines “the literature of a Non-Western region of the world” as “world regions not including North America and Europe.” South American literature fits within your parameters. However, since the entire literary tradition, including Luso-Brazilian literature, is based on the European tradition, our colleagues who specialize in and teach both Peninsular and South American courses have difficulty with the notion of South / Latin American literature being considered Non-Western. The only exception would be indigenous literatures. Our recommendation would be to consider a different title for the Special Topics course.

As you state in the rationale: “This course “completes the current series of literature in translation that the English Department provides.” We recommend that English majors take advantage of the flexibility provided in the new General Education Model to study another language and to go abroad thus having access to masterpieces in the original language.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dr. Afrodesia McCannon
English Department
Bunce Hall
Rowan University

February 10, 2006

Dear Dr. McCannon:

Your course proposal entitled, *Special Topics in Non-Western Literature* should add breadth and an exciting intellectual venture to the undergraduate curriculum, for students majoring in English, pursuing concentrations such as African American Studies, or interested in electives in English. Therefore, I write to offer my support for its approval.

In my capacity as Coordinator for the African American Studies Program, I have reviewed your proposal for the course and find that it will be a very useful elective for the African American Studies Concentration but especially for the Africana Studies Major which we look forward to establishing in the near future at Rowan University. Both for the African American Studies Concentration and the Africana Studies Major, we would be particularly interested in times when the course would be offered with a focus on African and African Diasporan literatures. However, we are concerned that, if the course is offered once every three semesters as proposed, the rotation of topics among various Non-Western regions might render the course less accessible as an elective in African American or Africana Studies. May I suggest that offering the course instead once every two regular semesters would enhance the frequency with which topics in African or African Diasporan literatures would be covered.

Notwithstanding, I believe that this course will contribute to students' development of valuable global competencies. Please accept my deep appreciation for this initiative to broaden the English curriculum at Rowan University through the study of Non-Western Literatures.

Sincerely,

Corann Okorodudu, Professor of Psychology &
Coordinator, African American Studies
116 Bosshart Hall
Rowan University
Tel: 856/256-4793
Email: Okorodudu@rowan.edu

To: Curriculum Committees

From: Dr. Donna W. Jorgensen, English Education, Department of Secondary Education/Foundations of Education

Re: Curriculum Proposal: Special Topics in Non-Western Literature
Dr. Afrodesia McCannon

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has a clear set of standards for what English majors who are preparing to be teachers of English should study. The Rowan University Department of English clearly offers our majors a very strong program. One of the requirements for candidates is that they have the opportunity to become knowledgeable about a wide range of literatures. This includes literature written in English and literature in translation from around the world. Teachers of English Language Arts must be cognizant of the global nature of our world. In order to speak about any literature, teachers need to have a very strong sense the impact of literature outside of the traditional American and British literary canons. Because the focus of an English major is very likely to be on American and British literature from a variety of time periods, it is essential that our candidates have the opportunity to focus their electives in literature from other cultures and nationalities, particularly non-western literature. This proposed course will fill that need in a powerful way. The rotating nature of semesters when the course would be offered would enable students to work with their schedules to identify where in their elective courses it will fit. Because it is a special topics class, a variety of faculty would teach the course drawing on their areas of expertise. This is critically important for students because it will enable them to work with different faculty members whose knowledge and expertise will be shared. The more chances our candidates have to experience, work with, and develop their own competency with non-western literatures, the better prepared they will be to teach the children of the 21st century.

As the English Education specialist in the Department of Secondary Education/Foundations of Education, it is my responsibility to ensure that our candidates meet the criteria established by NCTE and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). I strongly endorse this elective because it will strengthen the course offerings and options for our English majors.

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