

Comparative Literature

**Comparative Literature 121: International Short Story  
Summer Session II, 2000, University of Massachusetts  
Instructor: Beverly Weber, [bweber@complit.umass.edu](mailto:bweber@complit.umass.edu), Bartlett 15  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 12 - 1 and by appointment  
Telephone Number: Office:       ; Home: 253-0196  
Course Web Page: <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/summer.htm>**

for sample paper topics, go to <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/paperideassummer.htm>

## Writing Place in the 20th Century

### Course Goals:

- Enjoy the texts!
- Improve critical reading and analytical skills
- Improve writing skills
- Receive an introduction to working with literary theory

### Texts:

Required Texts available at Atticus Albion (Main St. Amherst) and on reserve in the library:

*Heinemann Book of Contemporary African Short Stories*, ed. Chinua Achebe

*Three Paths to the Lake*, Ingeborg Bachmann

*New Islands and Other Stories*, Maria Luisa Bombal

*Love and Longing in Bombay*, Vikram Chandra

*The Youngest Doll*, Rosario Ferré

*Annie John*, Jamaica Kincaid

*Turkish Culture in German Society Today*, ed. David Horrocks and Eva Kolinsky

Recommended Texts available at Atticus Albion and on reserve in the library:

*Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon

*The Wretched of the Earth*, Frantz Fanon

Required Texts distributed as photocopy and on reserve in the library:

*Mother Tongue*, Emine Sevgi Özdamar

additional secondary literature

### Requirements:

- 50% of your grade comes from demonstrating your command of the text:
  - Attendance and active class participation (25%)
    - Readings done on time
    - Submission of questions for class discussion to class list
    - Vocal participation

- Response Papers (25%)
  - One response paper each (2 pages minimum) on four of the following: Chandra, Bachmann, Bombal, Kinkaid, Ferré, Özdamar
  - One response paper on stories from African Short Stories
- 50% of your grade is based on your performance on three literary analyses
  - Paper 1: 10%, 3 pages minimum, on one text
  - Paper 2: 15%, 4 pages minimum, on two texts
  - Paper 3: 20%, 6 pages minimum, on three texts
  - Paper 3 Peer Review: 5%

If you need extensions on paper deadlines, please contact me in advance. You may call me at home at 253-0196 or email me at [bweber@complit.umass.edu](mailto:bweber@complit.umass.edu). MAKE SURE THAT READINGS FOR CLASS ARE DONE ON TIME

### **Schedule:**

Tuesday, July 18th: Introductory Lecture and Workshop: Introduction to the Texts; Concepts of Place (Space, Nation, Migration, Immigration, Diaspora); Writing Literary Analyses; Introduction to Gordimer and Chandra

Wednesday, July 19th:

- Nadine Gordimer (South Africa, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/NadineGordimer.html>), "Amnesty" (in *African Short Stories*) -
- Vikram Chandra (India/United States), *Love and Longing in Bombay*: "Dharma"

Thursday, July 20th:

- Chandra: "Shakti" and "Kama"

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Tuesday, July 25th

- Chandra: "Artha" and "Shanti"
- Maria Luisa Bombal (Chile, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/bombal.html>), "The Final Mist" from *New Islands and Other Stories*



Wednesday, July 26th:

- Bombal: "The Tree," "New Islands"

Thursday, July 27th:

- from Frantz Fanon (Martinique/Algeria, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/fanonblack.html>), *Black Skin White Masks*: Chapter Five: "The Fact of Blackness"
  - Paper workshop (draft of paper one required)
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Tuesday, August 1st

- PAPER 1 DUE
- Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua/United States, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/kincaid.html>), Annie John, 1-71

Wednesday, August 2nd

Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua/United States), Annie John, 72 to end.

Thursday, August 3rd-



- Audre Lorde (United States), "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" in *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives*. Eds. Anne McClintock, Aamir Muft, and Ella Shohat. Minneapolis: U of MN P, 1997. 374 - 380. (handout)
- Points of intersection between Fanon, Lorde, and Kincaid. Lindiwe Mabuza (South Africa), "Wake", in *Contemporary African Short Stories*.

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Tuesday, August 8th

- Rosario Ferré (Puerto Rico, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/ferre.html>), *The Youngest Doll*, p. 1 - 76.
- Frantz Fanon, "Towards a National Culture" from *The Wretched of the Earth*

Wednesday, August 9th

- Ana Lydia Vega and Rosario Ferré, Newspaper Articles
- Rosario Ferré, *The Youngest Doll*, p. 77 - end.

Thursday, August 10th

- Saida Hagi-Dirie Herzii (Somalia), "Government by Magic Spell"
- Kojo Laing (Ghana, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber//laing.html>), "Vacancy for the Post of Jesus Christ"
- Ben Okri (Nigeria, <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~bweber/okri.html>), "Converging City"

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Tuesday, August 15th

- PAPER TWO DUE
- from Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Wednesday, August 16th-



- Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 3 from *Turkish Society in Germany Today* Emine Sevgi
- Özdamar, "Mother Tongue"

Thursday, August 17th

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, "Grandfather Tongue"
- Chapter 6 and Chapter 8 from *Turkish Society in Germany Today*

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Tuesday, August 22nd

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, "Karagöz in Almania"
- Chapter 4 from *Turkish Society in Germany Today*



Wednesday, August 23rd

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, "Career of a Charwoman"
- Conclusion from *Turkish Society in Germany Today*

Thursday, August 24th

- Daniel Mandishona, "A Wasted Land"
- Ingeborg Bachmann (Austria), "Three Paths to the Lake"
- "Simultan"-

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Final Papers Due: Saturday, August 26th