

HUMS 622: The Third Woman
Professor Indira Karamcheti
Spring 2010, 1/25-5/7
Tuesday 6-8:30 p.m.
Downey 100
Hours: after class and by appointment
860-685-3625

Course Description: How are “Third World” women represented and how do Third World women authors negotiate with those representations? Analyzing images such as the exoticized/eroticized woman, the earth mother, the debased and exploited laborer, or the witch/temptress, we will study the parameters of these representations, questioning how they persist and how they are resisted in film, the image, and the written text.

Required Texts:

Malek Alloula, *The Colonial Harem*
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*
Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*
Helen Oyeyemi, *The Icarus Girl*
Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Keri Hulme, *The Bone People*

Requirements: six response papers (1-2 pages each), one class facilitation, two essays (3-4 pages each), and a final paper (5-6 pages).

Syllabus

Stereotypes, Archetypes, Master Narratives

Jan. 26: Introduction
Optional reading: on Blackboard: Gilman, “Black Bodies, White Bodies”
Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes”

The Question of Form and Genre

Feb. 2: *The Colonial Harem*
On Blackboard: Aidoo, “In the Cutting of a Drink”
Antherjanam, “The Confession”
Optional: Fanon, “Algeria Unveiled”
Princess Tam Tam (shown in class)

Modernity, Literacy, and the Image

Feb. 9: *Brick Lane*

Tradition and the Nurturing Mother

Feb. 16: *The Joys of Motherhood*
Optional, on Blackboard: interview with Emecheta

Education and Gender

Feb. 23: *Sugar Cane Alley* (film, shown in class)
Optional, on Blackboard: interview with Palcy
ESSAY # 1 DUE

Education and the Ghosts of the Past

Mar. 2: *The Icarus Girl*
60 Minutes (an episode, shown in class)

Mar. 5-21: Midsemester Recess

Tropical Woman

Mar. 23: *Lucy*
On Blackboard: Wordsworth, "The Daffodils"
Copacabana (film, shown in class)

Mar. 30: *Lucy*
Copacabana (film, shown in class)
ESSAY # 2 DUE IN CLASS

Apr. 6: *White Teeth*

Divine Woman

Apr. 13: *Devi* (film, shown in class)
Optional, on Blackboard: material on the movie

Apr. 20: *The God of Small Things*

Exploding the Stereotypes

Apr. 27: *The Bone People*

May 7: FINAL ESSAY DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 5 P.M.