

First Paper Assignment: D. C. Moore, September 28, 2009
Intl-English-HMCS 367 – Postcolonial Theory

Length: Six to seven pages. Note format requirements on syllabus.

Due: Thursday, October 15th, at 1:00 p.m., under my office door, Carnegie 410

Theme: Fanon, Césaire, Ngugi, Walcott, and/or Boo in dialogue

At the outset of our course, we have read a good number of significant and/or classic documents in this history of colonial resistance writing (two by Fanon, Césaire) and post-colonial (and indeed global) critique (two by Ngugi, Walcott, Boo).

Your objective in this first paper will be to put in deep dialogue any significant pair of writers from the course so far. Examples of potential questions to address might include these: What would Fanon have thought of Harish as an imagined real person, and a literary character, and what would he have thought of Boo's text? Explore the relations between Walcott's hybridity and Fanon's disdain for the middle, or Ngugi's advocacy of tradition in light of Césaire's musings on the future. Again, these are just some of many approaches one could take to this paper; I expect that only a fraction of the papers submitted will take up exactly the examples noted above.

In your paper, pay attention, of course, as we have consistently done, not only to the content of each reading you deal with, but also to their form – and critically the interrelations between content and form. The paper is not long – but it must be deep. My suggestion would be to write more than seven pages and then compress, hone, chisel, trim. I will not be impressed by extended rehearsal in your paper of points already well developed in class.

I will be glad to comment on drafts submitted to me, pasted into the body of an email, by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 11th.