

English

Contract	Term	Course	Contract Title	Contract Description
319038	Spring 2016	ENGL-3197	On the Page and On the Stage: What Qualifies a Text as Postcolonial?	<p>Chinua Achebe's novel <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (1958) and Wole Soyinka's play <i>Death and the King's Horsemen</i> (1975) bear striking similarities. Both texts are written by Nigerian authors into the English language (suggesting that their intended audiences were Western, English-speaking people). Both texts take place during and confront issues of British Imperialism in Nigerian in the early-twentieth century. Both texts explore the concept of suicide and the interpretation of native Nigerians (the Igbo in Achebe, and the Yoruba in Soyinka) as "savage" by the British colonizers. Yet, where Achebe fully intended his novel to be read as a postcolonial text that would challenge Western preconceptions about African primitivism, Soyinka was adamant that his play should not be considered a postcolonial text. For my contract, I seek to analyze the two texts, their similarities and their differences, in order to answer the question: "What qualifies a text as 'postcolonial'? Is it the author's intentions, the text's content, or the reader's interpretation?"</p>
319039	Spring 2016	ENGL-3135	Light on Alisoun	<p>I will be setting the Middle English poem "Betwene Mersh and Averil", also known as "Alisoun", to stylistically accurate music of my own composition, for the instrumentation of solo voice and classical guitar.</p>