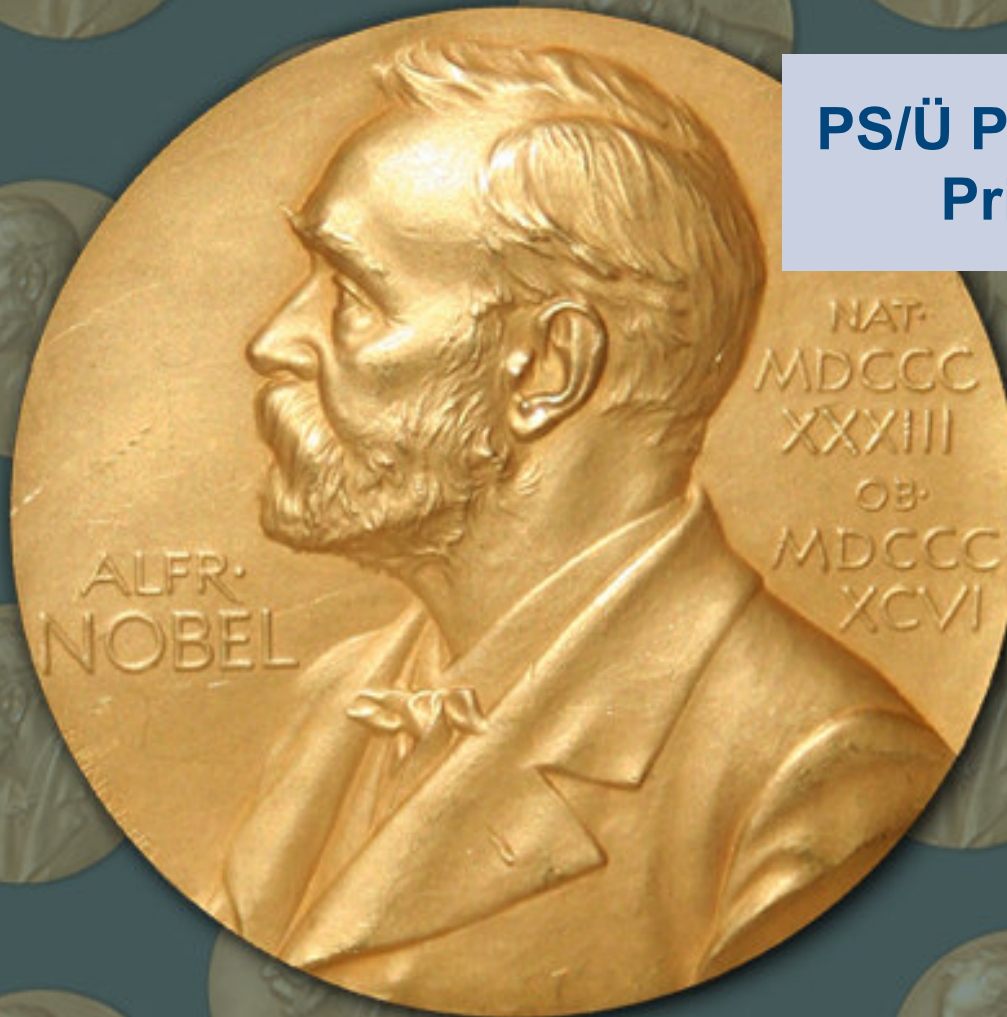


**PS/Ü Postcolonial Nobel
Prize Laureates**



PS/Ü Postcolonial Nobel Prize Laureates

Session 4: The Nobel Prize in Literature

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Lehrstuhl für Englische Literaturwissenschaft

Time: Wed 12:00 – 14:00

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Office Hours: Wed 16:00 – 17:00, U9, 202 (register via VC)



Organisational Matters

Term Schedule

1 20/10/2023	Introduction and Organisational Matters	
2 25/10/2023	Key Concepts of Postcolonial Studies Key Concepts	
3 01/11/2023	No Class Postcolonial Theory	
4 08/11/2023	Nobel Prize in Literature	
5 15/11/2023	The Colonies and the Cultural Cringe White, Patrick. <i>Voss</i> . 1957.	Presentation 1: Patrick White
6 22/11/2023	Modernism and Myth Soyinka, Wole. <i>A Dance of the Forests</i> . 1960.	Presentation 2: Wole Soyinka
7 29/11/2023	Classical Literature Walcott, Derek. <i>Omeros</i> . 1990.	Presentation 3: Derek Walcott
8 06/12/2023	Travel Literatures and Counter-Narratives Naipaul, V.S. <i>The Enigma of Arrival</i> . 1987.	Presentation 4: V.S. Naipaul
9 12/12/2023	Literatures of Exile Gunnah, Abdulkazak. <i>Afterlives</i> . 2020.	Presentation 5: Abdurazak Gurnah
10 20/12/2023	Trauma Coetzee, J.M. <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i> . 1980.	Presentation 6: J.M. Coetzee
11 10/01/2024	Apartheid Gordimer, Nadine. <i>The Conservationist</i> . 1974.	Presentation 7: Nadine Gordimer
12 17/01/2024	Women Laureates Lessing, Doris. <i>The Grass Is Singing</i> . 1950.	Presentation 8: Doris Lessing
13 24/01/2024	Postcolonial Short Story Munro, Alice. <i>Selected Stories: Volume One 1968-1994</i> . 2021.	Presentation 9: Alice Munro
14 31/01/2024	Land and History Seamus, Heaney. <i>New Selected Poems, 1966-1987</i> . 1990.	Presentation 10: Seamus Heaney
15 07/02/2024	The Nobel Prize Effect	



Postcolonial Theory



Nobel Prize in Literature

Questions on the Prize

1. What is the Nobel Prize in Literature?
2. What does it include? What does it entail?
3. Who awards the prize? Who has received the award?
4. How is the prize awarded? What are central categories of assessment?
5. What are the single steps from nomination to the award ceremony?
6. Why is the prize awarded - in general and specifically?
7. What is the history of the Nobel Prize in Literature?
8. What are the politics of the Nobel Prize in Literature?
9. What are postcolonial issues connected with the award?
10. Any other points of interest or questions you might have....

Definition of the Nobel Prize in Literature



Reasons for Award

“The said interest shall be divided into five equal parts, which shall be apportioned as follows: /- – -/ one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction ...” (Excerpt from the will of Alfred Nobel)

- “more than most represents what the testator called “the ideal” in literature” [on Sully Prudhomme, 1901]
- “cannot however be considered to embody the noble idealism that should characterise those awarded the Nobel Prize in literature” [on Anatole France, 1910]
- “one cannot deny him the idealism required of a winner of the Nobel Prize” [on H.G. Wells, 1921]
- “that he lacks to an unusual extent, hitherto at least, the idealistic tendencies continually invoked in this context” [on Alberto Moravia, 1949]

<https://www.nobelprize.org/behind-the-scenes-of-the-nobel-prize-in-literature/>

📄 🔍 90%

How can I be nominated for the literature prize?

There is a system for the nomination process. Otherwise it would be overwhelming. So we have people all over the world who are entitled to nominate. And these are scholars, critics, spokespersons for literary organisations, other academies. Previous laureates can nominate and of course the members of the Swedish Academy. So we get a lot of names from all over the world.

Can anybody be nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature?

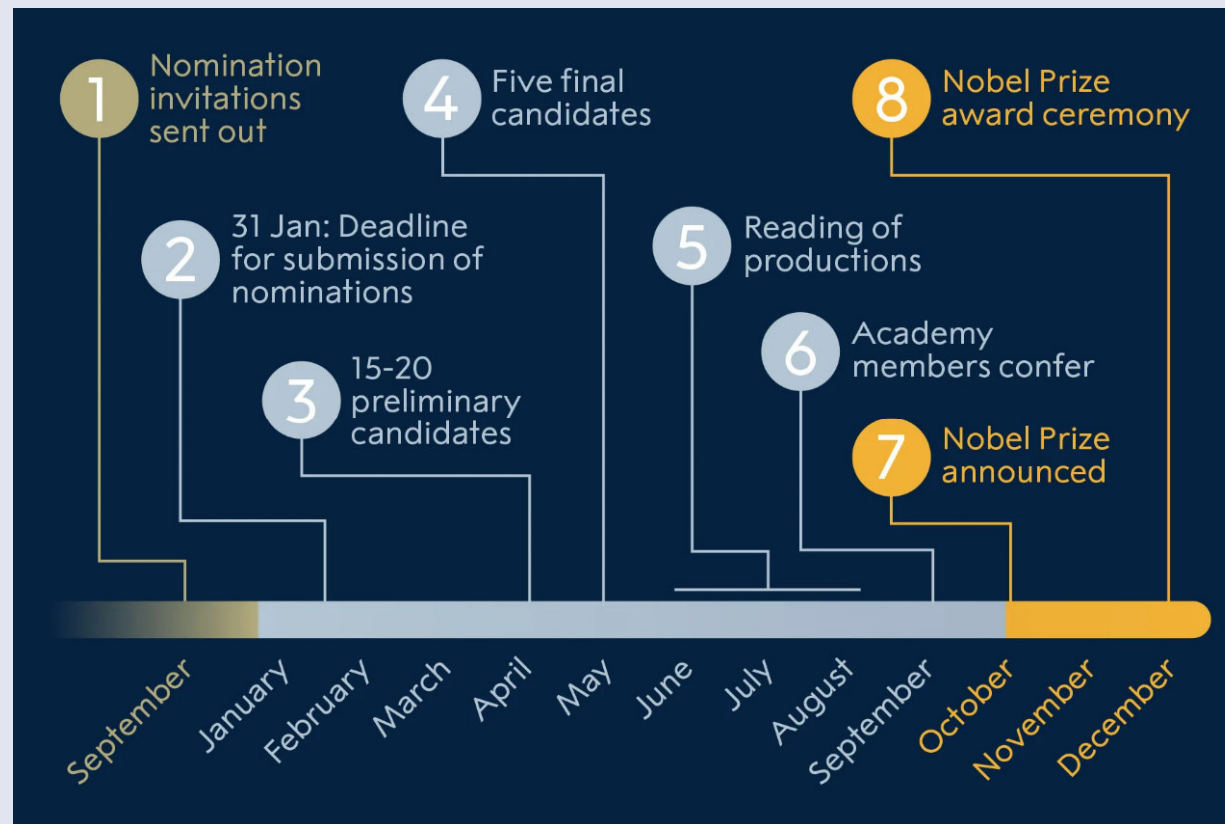
Theoretically anyone can be nominated. Anyone who writes excellent, outstanding literature. There is no other demand, just quality in the work.

What criteria do you use to choose Nobel Prize laureates?

It's all about quality. Literary quality, of course. The winner needs to be someone who writes excellent literature, someone who you feel when you read that there's some kind of a power, a development that lasts through books, all of their books. But the world is full of very good, excellent writers, and you need something more to be a laureate. It's very difficult to explain what that is. It's something you're born with, I think. The romantics would call it a divine spark. For me, it's a voice that I hear in the writing that I find within this particular writer's work and nowhere else. It's very difficult to explain what it is, but I always know when I find it. It's something you're born with. A talent that gives that extra dimension to that particular writer's work.

Is there a minimum age in order to be eligible for the prize?

Nomination Process



Award Ceremony

- Decision by the Committee
- Award ceremony speech
- Nobel Prize lecture in literature
- ...

Historical Development

- “A lofty and sound idealism” (1901-12)
- A policy of neutrality (World War I)
- “The great style” (the 1920s)
- “Universal interest” (the 1930s)
- “The pioneers” (1946-)
- Attention to unknown masters (1978-)
- “The literature of the whole world” (1986-)
- The prize becoming a literary prize

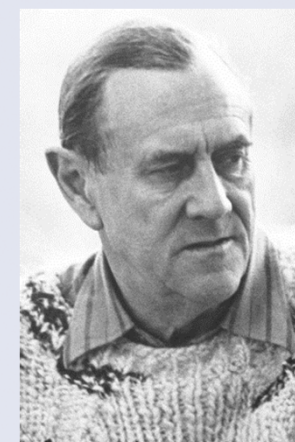
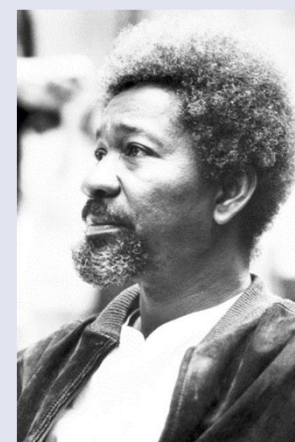
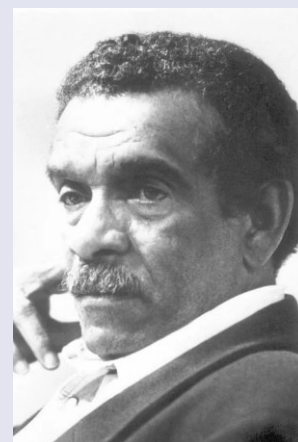
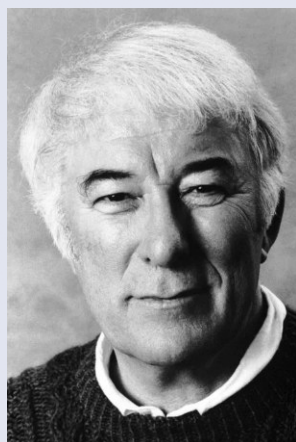
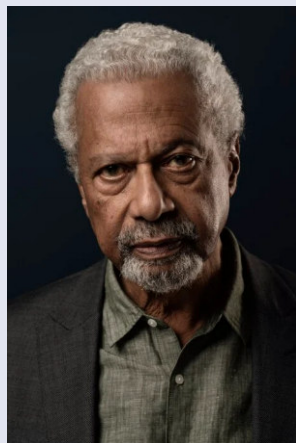
English Recipients of the Prize

- Rudyard Kipling (1864-1936)
- John Galsworthy (1897-1933)
- T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)
- Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)
- Winston Churchill (1874-1965)
- William Golding (1911-1993)
- Harold Pinter (1930-2008)
- Doris Lessing (1919-2013)

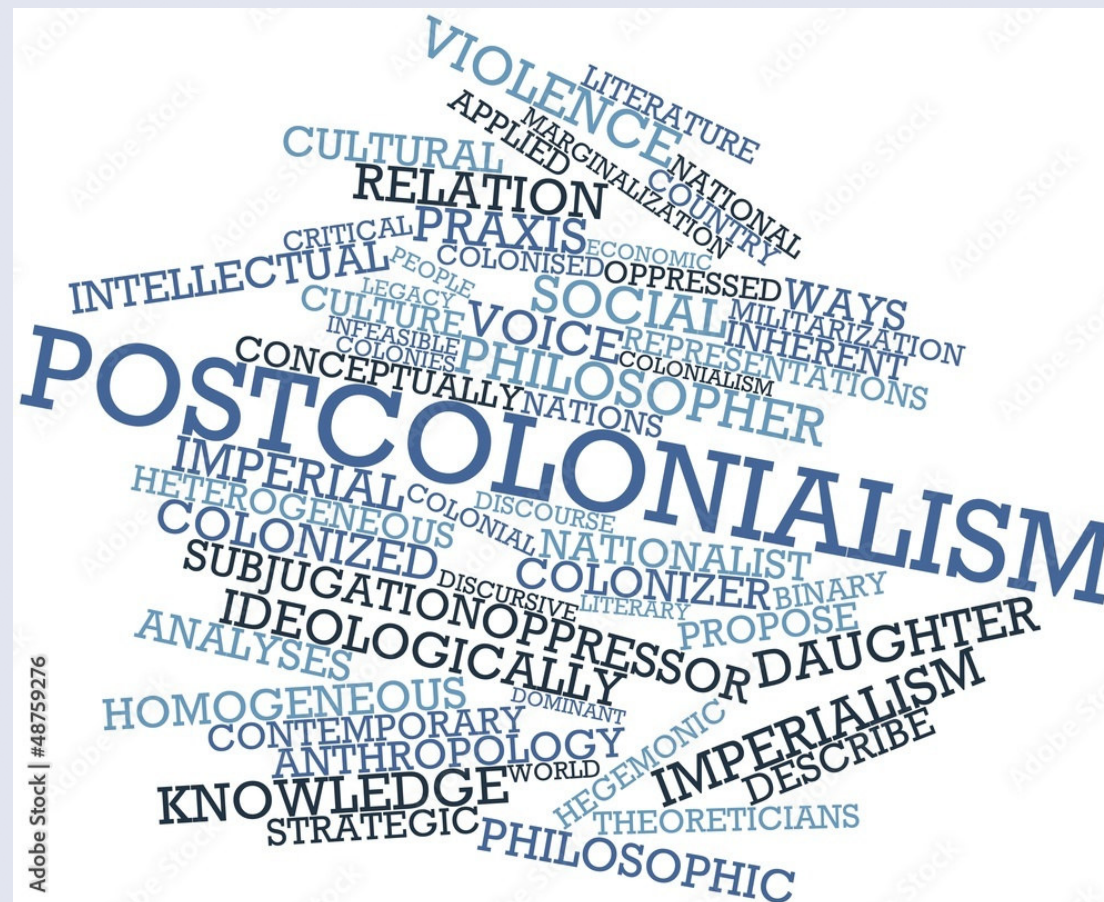
Politics of the Nobel Prize



Postcolonial Nobel Prize Laureates



Postcolonial Issues???



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