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Ü/PS Postcolonial Nobel Prize Laureates  
WiSe 2023/24

## **Worksheet Session 7**

### **Group Work: Myth and Modernism**

#### **Topic:**

Myth and Modernism - The meeting of traditions.

#### **12:30-12:40 Preparation**

Choose one of your peers who will serve as a student convenor for today's session and pay particular attention to time management.

Read the worksheet thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the group work session.

#### **12:40-13:00 Group Work – Wole Soyinka's *A Dance of the Forests* (1960)**

As a whole group create a table which outlines elements of a European literary tradition and those of a Nigerian context. Think about the following aspects and provide direct references to the text:

- Content
- Acts and Scenes
- Setting
- Atmosphere
- Characters and Constellation
- Dialogues and Monologues
- Stage Directions
- Themes, Motifs
- Metaphors, Symbols

#### **13:00-13:30 Discussion – Myth and Modernism / Classicism**

In preparation for last week's and today's class, you should have read the information/press release on and Nobel lectures by Wole Soyinka and Derek Walcott.

1. Discuss these texts and assess in how far they are posited on a meeting between African/Caribbean and European literatures and cultures.

2. How do they relate that to the postcolonial position they are writing from?
3. What kind of further questions on postcolonial literature/politics does that raise?
4. Please take notes on your major points discusses or results.

### **13:30-14:00 Work in Groups – Literary Criticism and Derek Walcott**

Get together groups concerning different forms of critical writing on Derek Walcott.

As a foundation for this group work, use the scan of *Critical Perspectives on Derek Walcott* (1993) provided on the VC.

#### **Group 1**

- Person 1: Derek Walcott, “Society and the Artist” (1957)
- Person 2: Derek Walcott, “History and the Picong ... in the Middle Passage” (1963)
- Person 3: Derek Walcott, “Necessities of Negritude” (1964)

Please read the assigned text. Assess the major arguments of the text. (15 mins)

In your group, collect overlapping ideas of Walcott’s critical stance on literature and postcolonialism. Save your results. (15 mins)

#### **Group 2**

- Person 1: Anthony Milne, “Dereck Wallcott” (1982)
- Person 2: Edward Hirsch, “The Art of Poetry” (1986)

Please read the assigned text. Assess the main topics the interviewers raise in the interviews. 20 mins)

In your pair, collect overlapping ideas of Walcott’s writing and his own response to these preoccupations. Save your results. (10 mins)

#### **Deadline:**

Upload your results from Group Work 1-3 in the forum provided on the VC latest by **4 December 2023!**

Your results together with the preparation for Session 8 will serve as a basis for our further discussion on Postcolonial Nobel Prize Laureates.

Thank you for your cooperation! Have fun!