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LIT 4183
Fall '13

MWF 8 PUGH 120

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Introduction to Postcolonial Theory

"Before postcolonial studies, Western scholarship was an embarrassment"

Susie O'Brien and Imre Szeman SAQ 100 iii (2001)

By the beginning of the twentieth century, a few European powers had colonized 80% of Asia and Africa. Nationalist movements during the latter half of the century led to territorial, but not necessarily economic, cultural and intellectual decolonization. The continuing cultural, political, and economic effects of colonialism, as well as new forms of colonialism and imperialism sanctioned on the global South constitute the field of postcolonial studies. We will study the ways in which postcolonial theory has intersected with and impacted diverse areas of inquiry such as feminism, historiography, ethnography, political science, and literature. At the same time, this course will stress the importance of historicizing postcoloniality. The course will focus on the central concerns of postcolonial studies: the nature of colonial discourse, the articulation of revolutionary national consciousness, questions of subalternity and history, the relationship of postcolonial studies to gender studies, the vexing nature of settler colonialism, and the politics of contemporary colonialism. We will read the works of major revolutionaries and theorists and the debates and arguments about these works. The course will cover writings from and about the major parts of the world affected by imperialism: Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the U.S.. A major goal of the course will be to see how postcolonial theory can be instrumental in affecting cultural changes in conditions of oppression today.

This is an intensive discussion course. Please come to class prepared to raise questions about the readings for the day. I am interested in your active responses to the materials you are reading.

Texts: (Univ bookstore; also a few at BookIt)

Edward Said [Orientalism](#)

Brian Gilbert [Not Without My Daughter](#) (buy DVD/rent from amazon/watch in library)

Mary Prince [The History of Mary Prince](#) (Dover edition)

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman [Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory](#)

Nawal El Saadawi [Woman at Point Zero](#)

Joe Sacco [Palestine Collection](#)

Coursepack: Available at BookIt

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:

Attendance: Please remember that this is a discussion class and that you are expected to attend every day. Attendance means being in class, with your books, and ready to take notes and participate in discussion. If you come to class without the reading material, you will be marked absent. There is no way to simply "make up" work for missed classes. If you miss more than four hours of class, you will lose a letter grade for each additional absence. The absence policy does not mean that I am encouraging these absences or that you should, indeed, miss four hours (hours, not classes). The allowed absences are meant strictly to cover emergencies (if you "use up" your absences and then have an emergency, you're out of luck). Missing eight hours of class constitutes failing the course.

All cell phones must be turned off before the beginning of class.

Computer Use in Class: You may take notes on a laptop only if you have a documented disability you can show me. Please be sure to sit in the front row if you are using your laptop.

Turning in Papers: Please turn in all essay exams as attachments on Sakai and also bring hard copies to class. If you are absent you are still responsible for knowing the material and turning in assignments. Essay exams turned in late because you missed a class will be marked down for lateness.

Take Home Essay Exams: Intended to make you think about, interrogate, and synthesize the theories you are reading. These are due on the scheduled dates No exceptions. Exam questions will be handed out at least a week, possibly two, before the essays are due. Total of 70%

Oral Presentation: You can do these alone or with one other student. These panels are either intended to broaden, contextualize, or interrogate the topic being discussed in class. Most panels ask you to respond to a question or take a position on a question. A position must be supported by close readings of the text/s in question. Your best option is to direct the class to a specific page and offer specific analyses. During class, the panelists should read aloud their 1-2 page statements. After that, the panel will open to class discussion. Please don't pose questions to the class. This strategy usually inhibits discussion.

All panelists should e-mail a 1-2 page statement to each of the panel participants as well as to me at least 24 hours before class.

If I do not get your panel statement 24 hours before class, I will consider it late. In class, please hand me a hard copy of your panel statement. Please practice and time yourself before you present in class. Panels will be graded on the written statement, clarity, and on the ability to elicit questions. Panels should take no longer than ten minutes. Questions and answers can take an additional five to ten minutes. 10%

Quizzes: There will be quizzes on the readings for the day any time during class. Expect at least 12-13 quizzes during the course of the semester. I will not be able to give makeup quizzes if you are unable to attend class or if you miss a quiz because you came to class late. However, I will drop the lowest quiz grade. 15%

Class Participation: Initiating discussion and responding to questions. 5%

All papers and the panel must be done in order to pass the course. Work not done, including missed quizzes, will receive a grade of "0"

You can expect things of me in return. I will be happy to answer any questions or help you with your writing. For quick questions, use my e-mail. I usually check it at least once a day. I am always there to help you during office hours. If you are not free during my office hours and need help, please don't hesitate to see me after class to set up an appointment.

Syllabus: This syllabus might be changed according to the needs of the course

Syllabus:

Aug 21: Introduction

Aug 23 Robert Young From Postcolonialism 1-11; 16-19 on sakai. PLEASE PRINT OUT AND BRING TO CLASS.
Screening short segment Not Without My Daughter (please finish watching this on your own by Aug 30th)

The Languages of Postcolonial Theory

1. Colonial Discourse

Aug 26 Edward Said Orientalism 1-73; 92-110

Aug 28 Orientalism 201-211; 284-328.

Aug 30 Orientalism Preface to anniversary edition
Dennis Porter "Orientalism and Its Problems" Colonial Discourse 150-162
Panel # 1 Is Not Without My Daughter an Orientalist film?

Sept 2 Labor Day

2. Hybridity and Subjectivity

Sept 4 Homi Bhabha "The Other Question" from Location of Culture, 66-84 (coursepack)

Sept 6 Homi Bhabha "Of Mimicry and Man" from Location of Culture, 85-92 (coursepack)

Frantz Fanon "The Fact of Blackness" in (coursepack)

Nationalism

Revolutionary Consciousness, Culture, Language

- Sept 9 Aime Cesaire "Discourse on Colonialism" Colonial Discourse
Frantz Fanon "The Fact of Blackness" (coursepack)
- Sept 11 Fanon "On National Culture" Colonial Discourse
Amilcar Cabral "National Liberation and Culture" Colonial Discourse
- Sept 13 Ngugi wa Thiong'o "The Language of African Literature" Colonial Discourse
Chinua Achebe "The African Writer and the English Language" in Colonial Discourse
Panel # 2: Do you agree/not with Thiong'o's position on Achebe?

Questions of Subalternity and History

- Sept. 16: From Benedict Anderson from Imagined Communities 1-36 (coursepack)
- Sept 18 Partha Chatterjee, "Whose Imagined Community?" from The Nation and Its Fragments, pp. 3-13 (coursepack)
Edward Said "Foreward" to Selected Subaltern Studies (coursepack)
Ranjit Guha "On Some Aspects of Historiography in Colonial India" from Selected Subaltern Studies (coursepack)
- Sept 20 Gayatri Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak" Colonial Discourse 66-86
- Sept 23 Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak" Colonial Discourse 87-104
** First Essay Exam Due
- Sept 25 The History of Mary Prince
- Sept 27 contd discussion The History of Mary Prince
Panel # 3: Can Mary Prince (as subaltern) speak?

Modes of Writing Back: Appropriation, Creolization

- Sept 30 Leopold Senghor "Negritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century"
Colonial Discourse
- Oct 2 George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile 9-50 (coursepack)
Panel #4 Is Lamming's Use Of Caliban caught within a colonial lexicon?

Oct 4 Antonio Benitez-Rojo The Repeating Island, 1-22. (coursepack)
Stuart Hall "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" Colonial Discourse

Postcoloniality and Gender

Feminism and Imperialism

Oct 7 Chandra Mohanty "Under Western Eyes" Colonial Discourse
Radio Address by Mrs Bush in Packet (can access online) coursepack
Miriam Cooke "Saving Brown Women" coursepack

Veiling

Oct. 9: Fanon "Algeria Unveiled" in A Dying Colonialism (coursepack)
Panel # 5: Is "Algeria Unveiled" an anticolonial treatise or a masculinist one?

Oct 11 Gillian Whitlock "The Skin of the Burka" from Soft Weapons, pp. 45-69 (coursepack).
Elisabeth Ozdalga from The Veiling Issue, Official Secularism and Popular Islam in Modern Turkey 39-49; 77-85 (coursepack)

Screening Battle of Algiers. Date, time and place TBA

Gender and Nation

Oct. 14 Anne McClintock, from Imperial Leather, 352-388 (coursepack)

Oct 16 Case Study Nawal Ed Saadawi Woman at Point Zero

Oct 18 Saadawi Woman at Point Zero
Panel # 6: What is the relationship between nationalism and women in Woman at Point Zero?

Settler Colonialism

Oct 21 from The Empire Writes Back in Packet (1-29) coursepack
Lorenzo Veracini "Introducing Settler Colonial Studies" 1 (2011) 1-12 (coursepack)

Questions of Indigeneity

Oct 23 Haunani Kay-Trask From a Native Daughter, pp. 1-40; 136-147 (coursepack)
Taiaiake Alfred "Sovereignty" from Sovereignty Matters pp. 33-49

Oct 25 Leonie Pihama "Asserting Indigenous Theories of Change" from Sovereignty Matters,

Pp. 191-209

Elizabeth Furness "Challenging the Myth of Indigenous Peoples..." from Rethinking Settler Colonialism, pp. 172-192

**Second Essay Exam Due

Settler Colonialism and Occupation: Palestine

Oct 28 Saree Makdisi "Outside In" from Palestine Inside Out 153-207

David Lloyd, "Settler Colonialism and the State of Exception: The Example of Israel/Palestine" Settler Colonial Studies vol 2 i (2012), 39-58

Oct 30 Eyal Weizman "Urban Warfare: Walking Through Walls" From Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation, pp. 185-217 and "Frontier Architecture" 1-22.

Joe Sacco Palestine

Nov 1 Joe Sacco Palestine

Panel 7: Does the genre of graphic novel help or hinder Sacco's attempt to convey Palestinian life under occupation?

Globalization, Migration, Diaspora

Nov. 4 Arjun Appadurai "Disjuncture and Difference..." Colonial Discourse

Nov 6 Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire pp. xi-21; 42-46; 52-59 (coursepack)

Nov 8 Homecoming

Nov 11 Veterans Day

The Global as Imperial

Nov. 13: Radhakrishnan "Globalization, Desire and the Politics of Representation" (Coursepack)

Nov 15 Omar Dahbour "On Liberal Justifications for Empire" (coursepack)
Panel #8: Should human rights discourse be seen as imperial?

Location and Resistance

Nov 18 John Brown Childs from Transcommunalities 7-8; 21-45
Hau'ofa, "Our Sea of Islands" both in coursepack

Technologies of the New Colonialism:

1. Structural Adjustment Programs

Nov 20 David Harvey from The New Imperialism 145-161; 180-182
Mike Davis Planet of Slums 11-19; 69-82; 90-94; 151-158
Both readings in coursepack

Nov 22 : No class. I am giving a talk at the American Studies Association conference in Washington, DC. Please read Bret Benjamin from Invested Interests pp. 46-58
On your own. If you mail a one page (double spaced) reading response linking it to Harvey and Davis, I will count it as a quiz grade

2. Terror and Security: the future

Nov 25: Samuel Huntington "The Clash of Civilizations" (coursepack)
Panel 9: Do you agree with Huntington about the Clash of Civilizations?

Nov 27 Thanksgiving break

Nov 29 Thanksgiving break

Dec 2 Edward Said "The Clash of Ignorance" (coursepack)
Amy Kaplan "Homeland Insecurities: Transformations of Language and Space"
From September 11 in History (coursepack)

Dec 4 Panel 10: An Analysis of the figure of the terrorist in any cultural form. Suggestion:
The Dark Knight.
Anne McClintock "The Angel of Progress" Colonial Discourse pp. 291-305

Dec 6 Third Essay Exam Due 4 pm

Reserve Books (under LIT 6236)

- Ed. Anthony C. Alessandrini Frantz Fanon: Critical Perspectives 1999
- Benedict Anderson Imagined Communities Verso, 1983
- Aijaz Ahmed In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures. 1992
- Malek Alloula The Colonial Harem 1986
- Samir Amin from Accumulation on a World Scale
- William Apess On Our Own Ground 1992
- Arjun Appadurai Modernity at Large Minnesota, 1996
- Ed. Joanne Barker Sovereignty Matters
- Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin The Empire Writes Back 1989
- Bill Ashcroft and Pal Ahluwalia Edward Said: The Paradox of Identity 1999
- Bret Benjamin Invested Interests: Capital, Culture and the World Bank. 2007
- Homi Bhabha The Location of Culture. Routledge, 1994
- Homi Bhabha Ed.Nation and Narration Routledge, 1990
- Dipesh Chakrabarty Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference 2000
- Partha Chatterjee The Nation and Its Fragments 1993
- John Brown Childs Transcommunitary: From the Politics of Conversion to an Ethics of Respect. 2003
- Annie Coombes Rethinking Settler Colonialism 2006
- Anne McClintock; Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality
_____ in the Colonial Context. Routledge 1995
- Tsitsi Dangaremba Nervous Conditions
- Mike Davis Planet of Slums 2006
- Ashley Dawson and Malini Johar Schueller Eds. Exceptional State: Contemporary US Culture and the New Imperialism. Duke
2007
- Zillah Eisenstein Against Empire 2004
- Johannes Fabian Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object 1983
- Frantz Fanon Black Skins White Masks Grove, 1967
- Frantz Fanon A Dying Colonialism
- Frantz Fanon The Wretched of the Earth Grove, 1963
- Eds. Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Spivak Selected Subaltern Studies 1988
- Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire. Harvard 2000
- David Harvey The New Imperialism 2005
- Evelyn Hu-DeHart Across the Pacific: Asian Americans and Globalization. 1999
- Kumari Jayawardene Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World
- Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease Eds. The Cultures of United States _____ Imperialism Duke, 1993
- George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile
- Neil Lazarus Nationalism and Cultural Practice in the Postcolonial World Cambridge 1999
- Reina Lewis Rethinking Orientalism: Women, Travel and the Ottoman Harem. 2005
- Rigoberta Menchu I, Rigoberta Menchu 1984
- Fatima Mernissi Beyond the Veil 1987
- Albert Memmi The Colonizer and the Colonized Orion, 1965.
- George Mosse Nationalism and Sexuality Wisconsin, 1985

Mary Louise Pratt: Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation Routledge, 1992

R. Radhakrishnan Theory in an Uneven World 2003

Rajeshwari Sunder Rajan Real and Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism 1993

Schueller Malini Johar U.S. Orientalisms: Race, Nation, and Gender in Literature, 1790-1890. Michigan
1998

Schueller, Malini Johar and Edward Watts Eds. Messy Beginnings: Postcoloniality and Early American Studies. Rutgers, 2003.

Gayatri Spivak A Critique of Postcolonial Reason 1999

Gayatri Spivak In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics Methuen, 1987

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory

Gillian Whitlock Soft Weapons: Autobiography in Transit. 2006

Yegenoglu Meyda Colonial Fantasies: Towards a feminist reading of Orientalism. Cambridge, 1998.

N'gugi Wa Thiong'O, Decolonizing the Mind 1986