

Professor Malini J. Schueller  
Office: 4113 TUR  
Office Hours: 1-2:30 MF  
and by appointment

LIT 6236  
Fall '13

W 3-5 (9:35-12:35)  
Seminar Room

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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. 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: Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks

Edward Said Orientalism

Homi Bhabha The Location of Culture

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

Partha Chatterjee The Nation and Its Fragments

Fatima Mernissi Beyond the Veil

Frantz Fanon The Wretched of the Earth  
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire  
Nawal El Saadawi Woman at Point Zero  
George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile  
Joe Sacco Palestine Collection

Coursepack: Available at Orange and Blue Textbooks.

### **Course Requirements and Grade Distribution**

Eight position papers on the readings (2-3 pages): 15%

These should be critical and evaluative rather than summations of the readings. Raise questions here but be specific. Please do not turn these in late.

Two Oral Presentations (3- 4pages) 15%

\* Choose any critical essay and evaluate its method of argumentation, its conclusions etc

\*Give a report on a book, part of which we are reading in class. Summarize key chapters/arguments and, most importantly, critically evaluate its conclusions. A one page handout with the thesis and summary is required

Your oral presentation should be about 10-15 minutes.

Term paper (20 pages): 70%

These should be analytical papers about 20 pages in length (excluding Notes and Bibliography). They may be extensions of the work you've done for the presentation or entirely new papers. You may choose to analyze literary/cultural texts or do a theoretical analysis but the paper should engage heavily with postcolonial theory. Whatever option you choose, you need to do a complete MLA search on your subject and incorporate the research into your paper. Connect your critical angle to current scholarship on the subject.

As part of the requirements for the paper you need to :

1. Find conference with a Spring deadline for the CFP.

2. Write the required abstract for the conference, as well as the letter of submission.

If you are a Ph.D. student, I strongly urge you to think about your paper as a possible publication. You will need to look at some journal issues in order to see how you need to frame your argument.

#### *Attendance*

It is understood that graduate students do not skip class. If you are presenting a paper at a conference and have a conflict with the weekly meeting, please see me. There will be a grade penalty for missed classes.

#### Syllabus:

Aug 21: Introduction

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/comment/43548>

<http://upsidedownworld.org/main/mexico-archives-79/1794-us-military-funded-mapping-project-in-oaxaca-university-geographers-used-to-gather-intelligence>

George Frederickson The Arrogance of Race, pp.218-221

Anibal Quijano “Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality” Cultural Studies 2 (2007), 168-178.

## **The Languages of Postcolonial Theory**

### *1. Colonial Discourse*

Aug 28 Edward Said, Orientalism, pp. 1-110; 201-226; 284-328

Edward Said, Culture and Imperialism, pp. xi-31

Dennis Porter “Orientalism and Its Problems” Col. Disc. 150-162

David Brody From Visualizing American Empire: Orientalism and Imperialism in the Philippines. pp 1-9.

Srinivas Aravamudan Enlightenment Orientalism: Resisting the Rise of the Novel pp. 1-10; 29-30.

Sept. 4 *2. Hybridity and Subjectivity*

Frantz Fanon “The Fact of Blackness”

Homi Bhabha “Interrogating Identity”, pp. 40-44 in Location

Homi Bhabha “The Other Question” in Location

Homi Bhabha “Of Mimicry and Man” in Location

Homi Bhabha “Signs Taken for Wonders” in Location

Anne McClintock from Imperial Leather (61-65) Electronic book

## **Nationalism**

### *Revolutionary Consciousness, Culture, Language*

Sept. 11: Aime Cesaire “Discourse on Colonialism” Colonial Discourse

Fanon “On National Culture” and “Concerning Violence” in Wretched

Amilcar Cabral “National Liberation and Culture” Colonial Discourse

Ngugi wa Thiong’o “The Language of African Literature” Colonial Discourse

Chinua Achebe “The African Writer and the English Language” in Colonial Discourse

Leopold Senghor “Negritude” Colonial Discourse

### *Questions of Subalternity and History*

Sept. 18: From Benedict Anderson Imagined Communities

Edward Said “Foreward” from Selected Subaltern Studies

Ranjit Guha "Preface" in Packet  
Ranjit Guha "On Some Aspects of Historiography in Colonial India"  
Partha Chatterjee from The Nation and Its Fragments, pp. 3-34; 158-172; 220-240  
Shahid Amin "Gandhi as Mahatama"

Sept 25 Gayatri Spivak "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography"  
Gayatri Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak" in Colonial Discourse  
\*\* Johannes Fabian from Time and the Other 25-27; 143-144 To be added  
Latin American Subaltern Studies Group—Founding Statement  
Walter D. Mignolo from Local Histories/Global Designs, pp. 1-45; 183-192.  
Electronic Book  
Dipesh Chakrabarty from Provincializing Europe, pp. 237-255. Electronic Book

### **Modes of Writing Back: Appropriation, Creolization**

Oct 2 George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile, 9-50; 95-150; 160-230  
Antonio Benitez-Rojo The Repeating Island, 1-22.

### **Postcoloniality and Gender**

#### *Feminism and Imperialism*

Oct. 9: Chandra Mohanty "Under Western Eyes" Colonial Discourse  
Sara Suleri "Woman Skin Deep" Colonial Discourse  
Zillah Eisenstein "Feminisms and Afghan Women..."  
The Case of the Veil  
  
Fanon "Algeria Unveiled" in A Dying Colonialism  
Fatima Mernissi Beyond the Veil, pp. vii-64; 148-177  
Megda Yegenoglu "Sartorial fabric-ations: The Enlightenment and Western  
Feminism..." from Colonial Fantasies 95-120  
Leila Ahmed "Western Ethnocentrism and Perceptions of the Harem"  
Elisabeth Ozdalga from The Veiling Issue, Official Secularism and Popular Islam in  
Modern Turkey 39-49; 77-85  
Gillian Whitlock "The Skin of the Burka" from Soft Weapons, pp. 45-69.

#### *Gender and Nation*

Oct. 16 Ann Laura Stoler from Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power pp. 41-67  
Anne McClintock, from Imperial Leather, pp. 1-8; 21-36; 352-388 Electronic Book  
Partha Chatterjee "The Nation and Its Women" in Nation and Its Fragments  
Frances S. Hassou, "The Women's Front: Nationalism, Feminism, and Modernity in  
Palestine," Gender and Society 12 iv (1998), pp. 441-468  
*Case Study*: Nawal Ed Saadawi Woman at Point Zero

## Settler Colonialism

Oct 23 from The Empire Writes Back (1-29)  
Lorenzo Veracini "Introducing Settler Colonial Studies" 1 (2011) 1-12

### *Questions of Indigeneity*

: Arnold Krupat "Postcolonialism, Ideology and Native American Literature"  
Haunani Kay-Trask From a Native Daughter, pp. 1-40; 136-147 (e-book in library)  
Tiaiaiake Alfred "Sovereignty" from Sovereignty Matters pp. 33-49  
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  
*Case Study* :William Apess  
"Eulogy on King Philip" in Packet  
"The Indian's Looking glass for the White Man"

### *Settler Colonialism and Occupation: Palestine*

Oct 30: 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  
Ghassan Hage, "Comes a Time We Are All Enthusiasm: Understanding Palestinian Suicide Bombers in Times of Exiphobia" Public Culture 15 i (2003) 65-89.  
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

## Globalization, Migration, Diaspora

Nov. 6: Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire pp. xi-21; 42-63; 114-201; 407-413  
Stuart Hall "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" in Colonial Discourse

### *The Global as Imperial*

Nov. 13: Radhakrishnan "Globalization, Desire and the Politics of Representation"  
Omar Dahbour "On Liberal Justifications for Empire"  
Wallerstein from The Capitalist World Economy pp. 49-65  
Samir Amin from Accumulation on a World Scale, pp. 22-27  
V.I Lenin from Imperialism, pp. 62-67; 76-87

### *Location and Resistance*

John Brown Childs from Transcommunalism 7-8; 21-45  
Simon Gikandi “Globalization and the Claims of Postcoloniality”  
Hau‘ofa, “Our Sea of Islands”  
Arif Dirlik “Transnational Capital and Local Community in the Making of  
Contemporary Asian America” from Across the Pacific, pp. 29-57  
Anna Tsing from Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection pp. 1-18.

## **Technologies of the New Imperialism**

### 1. Structural Adjustment Programs

Nov 20 : David Harvey from The New Imperialism 145-161; 180-182  
Bret Benjamin from Invested Interests pp. 46-58  
Mike Davis Planet of Slums 11-19; 69-82; 90-94; 151-158  
Aihwa Ong from Neoliberalism as Exception, pp. 1-27; 75-96; 241-243; 248-250  
Student Presentation on Papers

### 2. Terror and Security: the future

Dec 4: Samuel Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations” in Packet  
Edward Said “The Clash of Ignorance” in Packet  
Amy Kaplan “Homeland Insecurities: Transformations of Language and Space”  
From September 11 in History  
Naomi Klein “The Shock Doctrine” 513-559 (from section no conspiracies required)  
To be added  
Anne McClintock “The Angel of Progress” Colonial Discourse pp. 291-305  
Student Presentations on Papers

Dec 11: Final Papers Due

## Reserve Books

- 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
- Arjun Appadurai Modernity at Large Minnesota, 1996
- Aravamudan, Srinivas Enlightenment Orientalism: Resisting the Rise of the Novel
- Ed. Joanne Barker Sovereignty Matters
- Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin The Empire Writes Back 1989
- 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
- Brody, David. From Visualizing American Empire: Orientalism and Imperialism in the Philippines
- Dipesh Chakrabarty Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference 2000
- Partha Chatterjee The Nation and Its Fragments 1993
- John Brown Childs Transcommunality: 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
- 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
- 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
- Fatima Mernissi Beyond the Veil 1987
- Albert Memmi The Colonizer and the Colonized Orion, 1965.
- Mignolo, Walter. Local Histories/Global Designs
- 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

Gayatri Spivak The Postcolonial Critic 1990

Gillian Whitlock Soft Weapons: Autobiography in Transit. 2006

Eyal Weizman, Eyal. Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation

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

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