

Professor Malini J. Schueller

LIT 4233; Section 37DO

Office: 4113 Turlington

Office Hours: Office Hours: R: 2:30-3:30; 5:15-6:00 pm
and by appointment

Spring '24

T 5-6; R 6

e-mail:malini@ufl.edu

Postcolonial Theory

“Before postcolonial studies, Western scholarship was an embarrassment”
Susie O’Brien and Imre Szeman SAQ 100 iii (2001)

Course Description:

This course introduces you to the field of postcolonial theory. 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, politics, 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, and the politics of contemporary colonialism and neocolonialism. 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, Latin America, the Middle East, and the U.S.. We will see how postcolonial theory can be useful in analyzing 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.

Required Texts

Ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory
Woman at Point Zero
Readings on canvas.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:

Oral Presentation.....	8%
Take Home Essay Exam 1.....	30%
Take Home Essay Exam 2.....	30%
Discussions.....	20%
Class Participation.....	12%

Attendance: Please remember that this is a discussion class and that you are expected to attend every meeting. day. Attendance means being present with your video on and all printed materials ready so that you can 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 third of 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.**

Take Home Essay Exams: Intended to make you think about, interrogate, and synthesize the theories you are reading. You are required to do two of the three take home exams due on the scheduled dates No exceptions. (7-8 pages). Exam questions will be handed out at least a week, possibly two, before the essays are due. Please turn in all essay exams as Word attachments on canvas. 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. 30% each

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. Some 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. After the presentation, 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 their panel participant 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. Submit the final statement before class on the day you're presenting. Please practice and time yourself before you present in class. Panels will be graded on the information provided, clarity, and on the ability to elicit questions. Panels should take no longer than five minutes each. Questions and answers can take an additional ten to fifteen minutes.8%

Class Participation: Initiating discussion and responding to questions. 12%

Discussion Questions: Pick an idea that you think is important and needs discussion. Include a reference to the sentences/passages that you want to discuss. Questions will be graded on the engagement they evidence with the readings. Please stick to the texts themselves rather than

asking questions based on personal experience or views. You can miss 4 days. After that you will lose three points for every question missed. Please submit these questions on canvas by 9 am on the day of class. The questions need not comprise more than one or two sentences but make sure you have questions for all the readings for the day.

Laptop/media policy: All cellphones MUST be turned off before the start of class. It is definitely better to have hard copies of all texts so you can take notes, underline, and follow class discussion. However, I have grudgingly accepted the fact that some students work with e books and like to work electronically instead of using paper. You may bring your laptops, I pads etc to class but please make sure that you are only looking at the reading being discussed. **Surfing the web is distracting to students sitting next to you or behind you.** If you feel you cannot resist the urge to be on social media, please print out the readings and bring them to class.

Email: It is understood that you will check your UF email daily during the week. Any updates to the syllabus or changes to office hours will be sent on email. If you need to contact me outside of office hours, please do so at malini@ufl.edu and **not on Canvas**.

Plagiarism Policy: I do not require any research for your essay exams other than the material on Canvas. Indeed, I discourage research. If you must do research, please remember that any use of reference material, whether in direct quote or paraphrase, must be meticulously footnoted. Plagiarism, while intentional or otherwise, will result in a failing grade in the course.

Recording Policy

According to state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited.

Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is

posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office in Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. If you haven't registered with the DRC but think you may be eligible for accommodation, please come talk to me in office hours and I can help advise you.

Help From Me and About me: I am available during office hours to help you with your exams and am happy to read rough drafts ahead of time either in person or on e-mail. I will help you with organization, clarity, development and indicate some grammatical errors but will not proofread. Please allow enough time for me to get back to you. For quick questions, use my e-mail. If you are not free during my office hours and need help, please don't hesitate to email me or wait after class to set up an appointment via zoom.

I am a Professor of English. I was born and raised in India, hold a PhD in English from Purdue University, and since 1986 I have been at UF teaching courses on American literature, US empire studies, postcolonial theory, and Asian American studies. You can learn more about me and my interests by checking my website:

<https://wordpress.com/view/malinischueller.wordpress.com> or the English department website: <https://english.ufl.edu/malini-johar-schueller/>

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

For purposes of calculation A=93 and above; A- 90; B+= 87 B=83 etc

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

Jan 9 Introduction

Jan 11: From Robert Young Postcolonialism pp 1-19; 57-61 on canvas

The Languages of Postcolonial Theory

Jan 16: Edward Said from Orientalism in *Colonial Discourse* pp. 132-150.
Said Preface to 25th anniversary edition of Orientalism on Canvas

Watch Not Without My Daughter on your own or screening on Monday Jan 15
 Panel 1: Is Not Without My Daughter an Orientalist film?

Jan 18: Dennis Porter “Orientalism and Its Problems” in Colonial Discourse, pp. 150-161.
 Aime Cesaire from *Discourse on Colonialism* in *Colonial Discourse* 172-181

Jan 23: Leopold Senghor “Negritude” in Colonial Discourse pp. 27-36.
 Frantz Fanon “The Fact of Blackness” in Black Skin White Masks on canvas

Jan 25: Homi Bhabha “Of Mimicry and Man” from Location of Culture on canvas

Jan 30: Homi Bhabha “The Other Question” from Location of Culture on canvas

Nationalism and Revolutionary Consciousness

Feb 1: Cabral “National Liberation and Culture” in *Colonial Discourse*

Feb 6: Chinua Achebe “The African Writer and the English Language” in *Colonial Discourse*

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

Panel # 2: Do you agree/not with Thiong’o’s position on Achebe?

Feb 8: Benedict Anderson from Imagined Communities pp. 1-36 on canvas

Historiography and Subalternity

Feb 13: Edward Said “Foreword” to Selected Subaltern Studies on canvas

Ranjit Guha “On Some Aspects of Historiography in Colonial India” from Selected Subaltern Studies on canvas

Ranjit Guha “Preface” on canvas

(add subaltern studies essay or Latin American subaltern studies?)

Feb 15: Partha Chatterjee “Whose Imagined Community?” and “The Colonial State”

From The Nation and Its Fragments on canvas

Feb 20: Gayatri Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak” Colonial Discourse

Feb 22: History of Mary Prince <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/17851/17851-h/17851-h.htm>
 (if you can’t access this just google History of Mary Prince. Full text. You don’t need to read the other narratives included after Mary Prince’s.) Or contemporary stuff from Palestine?

Panel # 3: Can Mary Prince (as subaltern) speak?

Modes of Writing Back: Appropriation, Creolization

Feb 27: Stuart Hall “Cultural Identity and Diaspora” Colonial Discourse
Antonio Benitez-Rojo The Repeating Island 1-22 canvas

Feb 29: George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile pp. 9-13; 95-117.

Panel #4: Is Lamming’s use of Shakespeare an important critique or is it caught up in a colonial lexicon?

Postcoloniality and Gender

1. Feminism and Imperialism

March 4: Essay Exam # 1 Due 9 am.

March 5: Leila Ahmed “Western Ethnocentrism and Perceptions of the Harem” on canvas
Radio Address by Mrs Bush in Packet (can access online)
<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2001/11/20011117.html>

Zillah Eisenstein “Feminisms and Afghan Women...”

Panel #5: Contemporary Manifestations of Saving Brown Women in any cultural form (a film, a novel, a newspaper article etc)

March 7: Chandra Mohanty “Under Western Eyes” from Colonial Discourse

March 12: Spring Break

March 14: Spring Break

2. Gender and Nation

March 19: Anne Mc Clintock from Imperial Leather, pp. 1-8; 21-36; 352-360; 368-388 on canvas

Case Study: Woman at Point Zero

March 21: Woman at Point Zero

Panel #6: What does Woman at Point Zero say about women and the nation?

3. Veiling

March 26: Fanon “Algeria Unveiled” in A Dying Colonialism pp. 35-67 on canvas
Gillian Whitlock “The Skin of the Burka” from Soft Weapons on canvas

March 28: Elisabeth Ozdalga from The Veiling Issue, Official Secularism and Popular Islam in Modern Turkey 39-49; 77-85

Colonialism and Forms of Knowledge

April 2: Bernard Cohn From Colonialism and Its Forms Of Knowledge, pp. 3-15
 Yao Jen-To “The Japanese Colonial State and Its Forms of Knowledge” from Taiwan Under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945 Ed.Liao Ping-Hui et. als. pp. 37-61

April 4: Mary Louise Pratt: Imperial Eyes 1-37

Settler Colonialism

April 9: Lorenzo Veracini “Introducing Settler Colonial Studies” 1 (2011) 1-12 on canvas
 Patrick Wolfe “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native” on canvas

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

April 11: Haunani Kay-Trask from *From a Native Daughter*

Globalization, Migration, Diaspora

April 16: Arjun Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference...” in Colonial Discourse

The New Imperialism

David Harvey from The New Imperialism 137-182 (see if I can cut a bit)

April 18: Bret Benjamin from Invested Interests pp. 46-58
 Mike Davis Planet of Slums 11-19; 70-94; 151-158

Terror and Security

April 23: Samuel Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations” on canvas
 Edward Said “The Clash of Ignorance” on canvas
Panel 7: Do you agree with Said’s critique of Huntington?

Ecology, Indigeneity and Resistance

Macarena Gomez-Barris from The Extractive Zone, xiii-xx; 17-38.

April 24: Second Essay Exam Due 11:00 pm.