

Professor Malini J. Schueller
Office: 4113 TUR
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm
and by appointment

LIT 6236
Spring '20

T 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 and cultural 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, philosophy, 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 and globalization, and resistances to 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.

The course will engage post-colonialism as a constant process of reconstruction and resistance and ask how our understanding of past and present colonialisms and struggles against them help us understand contemporary battles around nationalism, immigration, refugees, and borders as well as the war on terror.

Texts: Edward Said [Orientalism](#)

Frantz Fanon [The Wretched of the Earth](#)

Homi Bhabha [The Location of Culture](#)

Partha Chatterjee [The Nation and Its Fragments](#)

Mary Louis Pratt [Imperial Eyes](#)

Antonio Benitez-Rojo [The Repeating Island](#)

Macarena Gomez-Barris [The Extractive Zone](#)

Ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman [Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory](#)

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

Seven position papers on the readings for the week (2-3 pages): 15%

These should be critical and evaluative rather than summations of the readings. Raise questions here but be specific. Please upload papers on canvas before class. You may not turn these in after the class meeting.

One Oral Presentation (3- 4pages) 15%

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 handout with the thesis and summary is required

Your oral presentation should be about 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 Fall 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: This syllabus might be changed according to the needs of the class

Jan 7: "U.S. Military Funded Mapping Project in Oaxaca"

From Robert Young Postcolonialism: A Historical Introduction
Anibal Quijano "Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality" Cultural Studies 2
(2007), 168-178.

The Languages of Postcolonial Theory

Colonial Discourse Analysis

Jan 14: Edward Said, Orientalism pp. 1-110; 201-226; 284-328
Edward Said, from The Question of Palestine, pp. 3-55.
Edward Said, Culture and Imperialism, pp. xi-31
Dennis Porter “Orientalism and Its Problems” Colonial Discourse

Presentation: The Question of Palestine

Subjectivity and Hybridity

Jan 21: Leopold Senghor “Negritude” Colonial Discourse
Frantz Fanon “Introduction” and “The Fact of Blackness” from Black Skins White Masks

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, and Language

Jan 28: Aime Cesaire “Discourse on Colonialism” Colonial Discourse
Fanon “On National Culture” and “Concerning Violence” from The Wretched of the Earth
Ngugi wa Thiong’o “The Language of African Literature” Colonial Discourse
Chinua Achebe “The African Writer and the English Language” in Colonial Discourse
Anthony Appiah from In My Father’s House pp. 1-27; 137-157

Presentation: Ngugi wa Thiong’o Decolonizing the Mind
Anthony Appiah In My Father’s House

Further Reading: Neil Lazarus, “Disavowing Decolonization: Fanon, Nationalism, and the Problematic of Representation in Current Theories of Colonial Discourse” Research in African Literatures, Vol. 24, No. 4, (Winter, 1993), pp. 69-98

Questions of Subalternity and History

Feb 4: From Benedict Anderson Imagined Communities
Edward Said “Foreword” 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 Mahatma” (possible)

Presentation: Benedict Anderson Imagined Communities

Feb 11: Gayatri Spivak “Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography”
Gayatri Spivak “Can the Subaltern Speak” in Colonial Discourse
Latin American Subaltern Studies Group–Founding Statement (?)
Walter Mignolo from Local Histories/Global Designs, pp. 1-45; 183-192.

Electronic Book

Dipesh Chakrabarty from Provincializing Europe, 17-148; 237-255. Electronic Book

Presentation: Walter Mignolo Local Histories, Global Designs

Dipesh Chakrabarty Provincializing Europe

Colonialism and Forms of Knowledge

Feb 18: Bernard Cohn From Colonialism and Its Forms Of Knowledge, pp. 3-15

Mary Louise Pratt, Imperial Eyes pp. 1-85; 111-143; 201-227

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

Walter D. Mignolo, “Delinking: The rhetoric of modernity, the logic of coloniality and the grammar of de-coloniality” Cultural Studies 21 ii-iii (March/May 2007), 449-514.

Presentation: Bernard Cohn Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge

Modes of Writing Back: Appropriation, Creolization

Feb 25: George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile 9-13; 95-117.

Antonio Benitez-Rojo The Repeating Island

Presentation: George Lamming The Pleasures of Exile

March 3: Spring Break

Postcoloniality and Gender

March 10: 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

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

Mayanth Fernando “Save the Muslim Women, Save the Republic” Modern and Contemporary France 21 (2013), 147-165

Lila Abu-Lughod from Do Muslim Women Need Saving, pp. 1-26.

Presentation: Megda Yegenoglu Colonial Fantasies
Lila Abu-Lughod Do Muslim Women Need Saving

Further Reading: Gillian Whitlock “The Skin of the Burka” from Soft Weapons, pp. 45-69.
Abstracts for Papers Due

Gender and Nation

March 17: Ann Laura Stoler from Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power pp. 41-67
Anne McClintock, from Imperial Leather, pp. 1-36; 352-388 Electronic Book
Partha Chatterjee “The Nation and Its Women” in Nation and Its Fragments
Frances S. Hassoo, “The Women’s Front: Nationalism, Feminism, and Modernity in Palestine,” Gender and Society 12 iv (1998), pp. 441-468
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian from Incarcerated Childhood and the Politics of Unchilding, pp. 51-72.

Presentation: Anne McClintock Imperial Leather
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian Incarcerated Childhood

Settler Colonial Studies

March 24: from The Empire Writes Back (1-29)
Lorenzo Veracini “Introducing Settler Colonial Studies” 1 (2011) 1-12

Patrick Wolfe “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native” *Journal of Genocide Research* (2006), 8(4), December, 387-409

Questions of Indigeneity

Coulthard Red Skin, White Masks pp. 1-50; 131-180. Electronic book. Please check out early and download because it might allow only 2-3 users at a time.
Haunani Kay-Trask From a Native Daughter 1-40; 136-147

Presentation: Haunani Kay-Trask From a Native Daughter

Globalization

March 31: Arjun Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy”
Colonial Discourse
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire pp. xi-21; 42-63;
Stuart Hall “Cultural Identity and Diaspora” in Colonial Discourse

The Global as Imperial

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

Presentation: Arjun Appadurai Modernity at Large
R. Radhakrishnan Theory in an Uneven World

Technologies of the New Imperialism *Structural Adjustment Programs*

Apr 7: David Harvey from The New Imperialism 137-182
Bret Benjamin from Invested Interests pp. 46-58
Mike Davis Planet of Slums 11-19; 70-94; 151-158
Aihwa Ong from Neoliberalism as Exception

Terror and Security

Samuel Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations”
Edward Said “The Clash of Ignorance”
Derek Gregory From The Colonial Present pp. 248-262.

Presentation: Aihwa Ong Neoliberalism as Exception
David Harvey The New Imperialism
Short presentations on papers

Resisting Colonialism

April 14: Macarena Gomez-Barris The Extractive Zone

Short Presentations on Papers

April 21: Robert J.C. Young. “Postcolonial Remains.” New Literary History 43, no. 1 (2012), pp. 19–42.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Postcolonial Studies and the Challenge of Climate Change” New Literary History, Volume 43, Number I (Winter 2012), 1-18

April 25: **Final Papers Due**