

Post-colonialism: Desire and the Other

Code: 42295
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OT	0	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Prerequisites

There are no prior course requirements but it is advisable for students who wish to take this course to have some basic knowledge of postcolonial theory.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aims of the course are to provide students with the necessary skills

- to understand and analyze postcolonial literatures in English
- to debate the main theories in the field
- to relate postcolonial studies with other disciplines in English studies
- to produce critical papers on postcolonial texts

Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level literary texts on Post-Colonial Literature in English, learning to distinguish its specificities.
2. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level scientifically produced texts on Post-Colonial Literature in English, extracting relevant citations and making content summaries.
3. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
4. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
5. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
6. Distinguish and contrast the different theoretical and methodological models applied to the academic study of Post-Colonial Literature in English.
7. Make oral presentations in English about subjects and texts related to advanced research into Post-Colonial Literature in English.
8. Read and analyse post-colonial texts in the English language.
9. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
10. Write texts defending an idea in relation to a literary text from Post-colonial literature in English, applying secondary sources to the critical argumentation.

Content

The following novels will be discussed in detail from various perspectives including gender, ethnicity, class and the environment. Other disciplines such as history, anthropology and diaspora studies will also be drawn on.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (Fourth Estate, 2006)

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (HarperCollins, 2004)

Zoë Wicomb, *Playing in the Light* (The New Press, 2006)

We will also discuss the play by Ashwin Singh, *Into the Grey* (2018) - available on moodle - and three short stories also available on moodle

Methodology

Close readings of the novels and class discussions centred on particular theoretical issues or cultural aspects

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Theory classes	50	2	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9
Type: Supervised			
Papers	15	0.6	3, 4, 5, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Private study	40	1.6	1, 8

Evaluation

Students are required to participate in class discussions on a regular basis.

Students will be asked to keep a "Reflective Journal" throughout the course which will have to be submitted to the teacher at the end of the semester alongside the Final Paper. The "Reflective Journal" grants students a space whereby they can reflect upon issues raised by the texts under discussion in a subjective manner.

The final paper consists of a 2,500 word paper with at least 5 valid, academic secondary sources. Students are required to submit a proposal BEFORE the Christmas holiday. This proposal must include the following: provisional title, 150-word abstract, bibliography with five items).

In order to pass the subject, students must hand in all the written exercises (including the Reflective Journal), do the classroom presentation and participate in class discussions.

The assessment is based on the following:

Short essay 20%

Class discussions 20%

Reflective journal 10%

Classroom presentation 10%

Final paper 40%

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class Discussions	20%	20	0.8	4, 7, 9
Class Presentation	10%	2.5	0.1	1, 6, 7, 8
Essay	20%	5	0.2	1, 2, 4, 8
Final Paper	40%	15	0.6	2, 3, 5, 6, 10
Reflective Journal	10%	2.5	0.1	1, 2, 8, 10

Bibliography

The following is a list of basic postcolonial texts. More specific bibliography, especially journal articles, will be provided with all the readings.

Printed Sources

Ahmad, Aijaz. *In Theory. Classes, Nations, Literatures*. London: Verso, 1992.

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. *Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies*. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.

Bhabha, Homi K.. *The Location of Culture*. London and New York: Routledge, 1994.

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- Donaldson, Laura E. *Decolonizing Fictions: Race, Gender and Empire-building*. London and New York: Routledge, 1992.
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- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skins, White Masks*. 1952. Trans. Contance Farrington. New York: Grove Press 1998.
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- JanMohamed, Abdul. *Manichean Aesthetics*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachussets Press, 1983.
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- Moore-Gilbert, Bart (ed). *Writing India 1757-1990. The Literature of British India*. Manchester U.P., 1996.
- Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.
- Naik, M.K. & Shyamala A. Narayan. *Indian English Literature 1980-2000. A Critical Survey*. Delhi: Pencraft Interantional, 2001.

- Nash, Geoffrey. *Writing Muslim Identity*. London: Continuum, 2012.
- Ngugi wa' Thiongo, *Decolonizing the Mind. The Politics of Language in African Literature*. London: Heinemann, 1986.
- Nixon, Rob, *Slow Violence. The Environmentalism of the Poor*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013.
- Ramsey-Kurz, Helga & Geeta Ganapathy-Doré (eds). *Projections of Paradise. Ideal Elsewheres in Postcolonial Migrant Literature*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2011.
- Rushdie, Salman. *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981-1991*. Granta, 1991.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. 1978. *Western Conceptions of the Orient*. London: Penguin Books, 1998.
- _____. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.
- _____. *Reflections on Exile and Other Literary and Cultural Essays*. New Dehli: Penguin Books, 2001.
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Websites

<http://www.postcolonialweb.org/>

<http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Home.html>

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/history/subject/postcolonialism/>

http://www.eng.fju.edu.tw/worldlit/world_link.htm

<http://www.ias.columbia.edu/>

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp>