

ENGL 6329: Postcolonial Theory

Instructor: Dr. Penny Ingram

Office 410 Carlisle

Office Hours: T: 1-3; R: 9:30-10:45
and by appointment

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Semester: Fall 2009

Class Time: R 2:00-4:50

Classroom: PH 100

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to a burgeoning field in literary studies: postcolonial theory. We will begin with a study of the central tenets of postcolonial theory and then proceed to a sampling of literary texts that foreground a number of these issues. Postcolonial literature is literature produced by formerly colonized nations, including India, Pakistan, the West Indies, various countries in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and others. Such literature is concerned with the way colonial subjects are produced in and by Empire. Postcolonial literature can be a tool by which the colonized subject “writes back” to Empire, engaging with themes like identity, belonging, exile, place, language, sovereignty, and hybridity. The course will explore the pervasive artistic, psychological, and political impact of colonization through a reading of both literary texts and critical essays.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course you will have:

- become an acute reader of literary and cultural texts with an understanding of the social, political, and cultural implications at work in the production of texts.
- developed a capacity for critical thinking. You will be equipped with the tools to perform critical analysis of literature, culture, and history.
- understood the role that literature plays in the construction of cultural norms, the maintenance of cultural hegemony, and the production and contestation of ideologies of the center.

Course Requirements and Percentages:

12 one-page reading response papers (20%)

Presentation (30%)

Final paper (50%)

MY POLICIES:

ENGL 6329 is a graduate course. As with all graduate courses, you are expected to show up to class having completed the assignment and being prepared to discuss it. The burden of discussion is on you, not on me. I will lecture occasionally, but you should have your own ideas for discussion every class period. If you are having trouble with the material, you should make an appointment to see me.

Tardiness:

You must arrive to class on time. Tardiness to class may result in your being counted as absent.

Classroom/email etiquette: I expect each member of the class to behave respectfully towards each other and towards me. Some of you may find the material we will discuss in class to be controversial, but not everyone will share your opinion. Please be mindful of this fact during discussions and in email correspondence.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another person's work and passing it off as your own. It includes direct lifting of another's words or ideas as well as PARAPHRASING another's words or ideas. Please complete the online tutorial offered by the library: <<library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism>> This tutorial will teach you when you need to cite a source and how to do it correctly. Plagiarism is a serious offense and carries serious consequences, including failure and/or expulsion from the University. Faculty members are required to report incidences of plagiarism and cheating to Student Judicial Affairs.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or earlier if accommodations are needed immediately. Please bring a copy of all relevant paperwork to the meeting. If you do not have a notification for accommodations but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Students with Disabilities, 102 University Hall, 2-3364.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Academic Assistance resource page of the Office of Student Success Programs, www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/academic-assistance. To help students address personal, academic and career concerns, individual counseling is also available. For more information, students are encouraged to contact Counseling Services www.counseling.uta.edu at (817) 272-3671 or visit a counselor in 216 Davis Hall.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

READING RESPONSE PAPERS

Reading response papers are a way for you to engage formally with the critical and literary material we are reading. You may write on any aspect of the text that interests you. What argument/s being made do you find compelling or unexpected? Is the argument persuasive or controversial? For a literary text, you might choose to write about a specific character or scene. **You should avoid summary and personal statements of like/dislike.** I am looking for intellectual inquiry and analysis and an attempt to understand what you are reading in terms of the postcolonial issues we are studying. It is not necessary to do outside research for these papers; however, if you do consult a secondary source (including internet sources) you **MUST** cite that source in your response. Failure to do so amounts to plagiarism. (See above.)

These papers should be one page in length and single-spaced. They are due every week, except weeks 1, 8, & 14. You are only required to write on **ONE** of the readings due that week, but you are expected to read all of the assignments regardless of whether you write on them or not. **You may not write on Gandhi's *Introduction to Postcolonial Theory*.** Later papers will not be accepted except in the case of absence from class due to a documented illness.

READING PRESENTATION

Each of you is required to give a presentation and lead a subsequent discussion on one of the **critical** readings on the syllabus. The presentation portion should last between 15 and 20 minutes. You should provide an overview of the reading and an analysis of it. You should use critical secondary sources in preparing your presentation and write it up as a formal paper, with a Works Cited page, for a grade. Your presentation should conclude with 3 questions for class discussion.

FINAL PAPER (20-25 pages)

Your major assignment for the course is a final paper investigating a topic of relevance to postcolonial studies. You can write on a novel, film, or cultural/historical event. You should offer a reading of your chosen text using a postcolonial lens and utilizing the theoretical frameworks we have been studying. **An abstract of your paper is due on 10/29.**

Required Texts

Bhabha, *The Location of Culture*

Coetzee, *Foe*

Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*

Duff, *Once Were Warriors*

Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

Gandhi, *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction*

Grenville, *The Secret River*

Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Course Pack available at the UTA Bookstore

Course Pack Readings

Macaulay's "Minute on Indian Education"

Said, "Orientalism"

Lowe, "Discourse and Heterogeneity"

Lowe, "Travel Narratives and Orientalism"

Fanon, "The Negro and Language"

Ngugi "The Language of African Literature"

Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Kossew, "Voicing the 'Great Australian Silence'"

Tentative Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

Readings are due on the date recorded and should therefore be completed BEFORE the corresponding class day. Though we might devote more than one class period to discussion of the readings you should COMPLETE the reading by the date noted below. Readings may change at my discretion.

DATE	CLASS DISCUSSION/ READINGS DUE
Week 1 8/27	Introduction to syllabus. In-class viewing of <i>Gandhi</i>
Week 2 9/3	<i>Postcolonial Theory</i> chs1-3. Macaulay's "Minute on Indian Education" (in course pack) Said, "Orientalism" (course pack) <i>Gandhi</i> discussion.
Week 3 9/10	Lowe, "Discourse and Heterogeneity" (course pack) Lowe, "Travel Narratives and Orientalism" (course pack)
Week 4 9/17	Fanon, "The Negro and Language" (course pack) Ngugi "The Language of African Literature" (course pack)
Week 5 9/24	Dangarembga, <i>Nervous Conditions</i>
Week 6 10/1	Bhabha, <i>Location of Culture</i> , ch.6. "Signs Taken for Wonders" Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (course pack)
Week 7 10/8	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>

Week 8 10/15	**Hermanns workshop on Globalization with Professor Ursula Heise**
Week 9 10/ 22	Bhabha, <i>Location of Culture</i> chs. 3-6 “The Other Question”; “Of Mimicry and Man”; “Sly Civility”
Week 10 10/29	Abstract of Final Paper Due Fanon, <i>Wretched of the Earth</i> : Foreword (Bhabha); Preface (Sartre); Ch. 1 (On Violence).
Week 11 11/ 5	Duff, <i>Once Were Warriors</i>
Week 12 11/ 12	<i>The Secret River</i> Parts 1-4 (pp. 3-185)
Week 13 11/19	<i>The Secret River</i> Parts 4-6 (pp.189-334) Kossew, “Voicing the ‘Great Australian Silence’” (course pack)
Week 14 11/23	FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY BOX
11/26	NO CLASS Thanksgiving
Week 15 12/3	Kureishi, <i>Buddha of Suburbia</i>