

Universidad de Puerto Rico
Recinto de Río Piedras
Departamento de Ingles
Facultad de Humanidades

Instructor: Nalini Natarajan

Course Title: Postcolonial Theory and Caribbean Literature

Course Number: INGL 8035

Class/Credit Hours: 3

Pre- Requisites: INGL 6488, INGL 6486 or Professor's Authorization

Course Description: A study of the major approaches, texts and critiques of post-colonial literary theory and the reading of Caribbean issues and literary texts in the light of these theories.

Objectives of the Course:

The course prepares students to interpret, write and teach literary texts and theory in the light of post-colonial approaches. At the end of the course the student should:

- Acquire knowledge of the pre-history and history of post-colonial theory, and be able to discuss the major texts that comprise both movements.
- Distinguish between the various schools of post-colonial theory, and the difference in the approach in various regions
- Critique how post-colonial theory draws from and reacts to major Western developments in theory
- Apply these theories to the interpretation of literary texts in the Caribbean
- Recognize and contextualize the many limitations of post-colonial theory
- Have a nuanced understanding of how Caribbean theory and literature relate to issues in post-colonial theory.

Course Plan

* Texts mentioned below will be ordered by the bookstore or handed in a xeroxed packet for the students

Part I: The history and core texts of post-colonial theory

Readings: Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak , Robert Young, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Edouard Glissant.

These texts will pose the major perspectives of post-colonial theory and its challenge to the Academy. This section will briefly outline the three phases in post-colonial theory- first, the examination of colonial discourse, its hegemony and its "ambivalence," the shift to post-colonial theory as formulation of a "condition" and a "process," and finally intervention of other paradigms- such as "nationalism" or "subalternity" to further complicate the notion of the "post-colonial."

This section takes exemplary texts for the many varieties of post-colonial theory – Foucaultian (Said), Psychoanalytic (Bhabha), Marxist/Feminist (Spivak) Ngugi, Fanon and Glissant bring Africa and the Caribbean into a theoretical dialogue with the field. (3 weeks)

Part II: The debates around post-colonial theory

In this section we will consider the points at which post-colonial theory and other explanatory theories intersect or contradict, especially as they apply to textual readings. Keeping a few texts in mind, we will discuss the critical encounter of:

- Marxism and post-colonialism. *Readings:* Fredric Jameson and Aijaz Ahmad
- Feminism and Post-colonialism. *Readings:* Gayatri Spivak, Mrinalini Sinha
- Psychoanalysis & Post-colonialism. *Readings:* Frantz Fanon, Ashis Nandy, Sudhir Kakar
- Attacks on post-colonial theory. *Readings:* Arif Dirlik (3 weeks)

Part III: Caribbean Theorists and post-colonial Theory

In this section, we will consider how theories conceptualizing the Caribbean as a region forefigure, replicate or depart from the premises of postcolonial theory. A consideration of how major Caribbean theorists- Roberto Fernandez Retamar, E.K Brathwaite, Frantz Fanon, Benitez- Rojo, C.L. R James, Edouard Glissant- relate to the issues in the field . (3 weeks)

Part IV: Caribbean Texts

The following authors will be related to the key debates in post-colonial theory. In each case, we will read sample texts from the authors, and place narrative or poetic analysis within the issues raised by the course.

V.S Naipaul, Jamaica Kincaid, Derek Walcott, Caryl Philips, George Lamming, Merle Hodge, Earl Lovelace, Rosario Ferre and others.(5 weeks)

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, student-generated discussions (classroom and web-based), student oral reports on texts and theory, term papers, group research projects. Students need to have an email account and access to MSN Messenger (can be downloaded free from the internet). The Multidisciplinary Seminar is well equipped with computers.

* Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con la profesora al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la oficina de Asuntos para los Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con la profesora.

Required Resources: Seminar Room; Computer Room ; Screening Room

Evaluation:

- Class/Online Discussion: 20%
- Oral / Online Reports (one per major text studied) - Critiques, Summaries, Perspectives 20%
- 2 quarter term examinations: 20%
- Oral Presentation of research paper in kernel form, including complete bibliography: 10%
- Research paper: 30%

Grading System: A, B, C, D, F

Core Texts

Literary Texts_(any available edition)

V.S. Naipaul, The Mimic Men

Jamaica Kincaid, Annie John

Derek Walcott, “ What the Twilight Said” and Omeros

Caryll Philips, A State of Independence

George Lamming, In the Castle of my Skin

Merle Hodge, Crick, Crack, Monkey

Rosario Ferre, House on the Lagoon; Eccentric Neighbourhoods

Earl Lovelace, Wine of Astonishment and Salt

Zee Edgell, Beka Lamb

Paule Marshall, The Chosen Place, The Timeless People

Secondary Reading List

Abu-Lughod, Lila. Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1986.

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

Alloula, Malek. The Colonial Harem. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986.

Asad, Talal. Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter. New York: Humanities Press, 1973.

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin. The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures. London: Routledge, 1989.

_____. (eds.) The Post-Colonial Studies Reader. London: Routledge: 1995.

_____. (eds.) Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies. London: Routledge: 1998.

Benitez-Rojo, Antonio. The Repeating Island . Durham: Duke University Press, 1992

Bhabha, Homi K. (ed.) Nation and Narration, New York: Routledge and Keegan Paul, 1990.

_____. "The Other Question - The Stereotype and Colonial Discourse". Screen 24:6, 1983, 18-36.

_____. The Location of Culture. London: Routledge, 1994.

Brantlinger, Patrick. "History and Empire." Journal of Victorian Literature and Culture 1992 (19) 317-327.

Brathwaite, Edward. History of the Voice. London: New Beacon Books, 1984

Britton, Celia. Edouard Glissant and Postcolonial Theory, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1999

Cabral, Amilcar. Return to the Source: Selected Speeches. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1973.

Cesaire, Aime. Discourse on Colonialism. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1972.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh . Provincializing Europe. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Chrisman, Laura. "The Imperial Unconscious? Representation of Imperial Discourse." Critical Quarterly 1990 (32/3/Aut) 38-58.

Derrida, Jacques. "Racism's Last Word," Translated by Peggy Kamuf. Critical Inquiry. 12 (Autumn 1985): 290-299.

Dirlik, Arif. "The Post-Colonial Aura" Critical Inquiry 20, 2 (winter 1994): 329-356

Eze, Emmanuel Chukwudi. (ed.) Postcolonial African Philosophy: A Critical Reader. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1997.

Fabian, Johannes. Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes its Object. New York: Columbia University Press, 1983.

_____. Language and Colonial Power. New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.

Fanon, Frantz. Black Skin, White Masks. Translated by Charles Lam Markmann, New York: Grove Press, 1967.

_____. Studies in a Dying Colonialism, Translated by Haakon Chevalier. New York: Grove Press, 1965.

_____. The Wretched of the Earth. Translated by Constance Farrington. New York: Grove Press, 1963.

_____. Toward the African Revolution. Translated by Haakon Chevalier. New York: Grove Press, 1988.

_____. The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality. Edited by G. Burchell, C. Gordon, P. Miller. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1991

Gandhi, Leela. Postcolonial Theory : A Critical Introduction. New York Columbia University Press, 1998.

Gates, Henry Louis, editor. Race, Writing and Difference. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1987.

Glissant, Edouard. Caribbean Discourse: Selected Essays .Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1989; Poetics of Relation (Ann Arbor: U Michigan Press, 1997)

Hussain, A. Olson, R. Qureshi, J. (eds.) Orientalism, Islam, and Islamists. Brattleboro: Amana Books, 1994.

James, C.L.R. The Black Jacobins and Beyond a Boundary . Durham: Duke University Press, 1993

Jameson, Frederic . The Political Unconscious . Ithaca: Cornell, 1981
"Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism." Social Text 15 (Fall 1986)

Kakar , Sudhir. The Inner World. London/Delhi: OUP, 1985

Loomba, Ania. Colonialism/Postcolonialism. London: Routledge, 1998.

McClintock, Anne. Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context. London: Routledge, 1995.

Memmi, Albert. The Colonizer and The Colonized. Boston: Beacon Press, 1991.

Mitchell, Timothy. Colonising Egypt. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1991.

Moore-Gilbert, Bart. Postcolonial Theory: Contexts, Practices, Politics. London: Verso, 1997.

Mudimbe, V.Y. The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy and the Order of Knowledge. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Nandy, A. The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self Under Colonialism. Delhi and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.

_____. The Savage Freud And Other Essays on Possible and Retrievable Selves. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995.

Niranjana, Tejaswini. Siting Translation: History, Post-Structuralism, and the Colonial Context. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Richards, Thomas. The Imperial Archive: Knowledge and the Fantasy of Empire. London: Verso, 1993.

Rushdie, Salman. Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism, 1981-1991. London: Penguin, 1991.

Said, Edward. Orientalism New York: Vintage, 1978.

_____. The World, the Text and the Critic. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1983.

_____. "Intellectuals in the Post-Colonial World". Salmagundi 70/71, (1986) 44-64.

_____. Culture and Imperialism. New York: Vintage Books, 1993.

_____. Covering Islam: How the Media and the Experts Determine How We See the Rest of the World. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.

_____. The Question of Palestine, New York: Vintage Books, 1992.

Sinha, Mrinalini. Colonial Masculinity. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1995.

Slemon, S "The Scramble for Post-Colonialism". The Post-colonial Studies Reader, London: Routledge, 1995, 45-52.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakavorty. "The Making of Americans, the Teaching of English, and the Future of Culture Studies," New Literary History 21 (1990): 781-798.

_____. In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics, London: Methuen, 1987.

_____. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Larry Grossberg, eds. Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1988, pp. 271-313.

_____. Selected Subaltern Studies. Ed. with Ranajit Guha. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

_____. The Post-Colonial Critic: Interviews, Strategies, Dialogues. Ed. Sarah Harasym. London: Routledge, 1990.

_____. Outside in the Teaching Machine. London: Routledge, 1993.

_____. The Spivak Reader. Ed. Donna Landry and Gerald MacLean. New York and London: Routledge, 1996.

Suleri, Sara. "Woman Skin Deep: Feminism and the Postcolonial Condition." Critical Inquiry, 18 (4) (Summer), 1992.

Williams, Patrick & Chrisman, Laura. (eds.) Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Young, Robert. White Mythologies: Writing History and the West. London: Routledge, 1990.

_____. Colonial Hybridity: Theory, Culture and Race London: Routledge, 1994

_____. An Introduction to Post-Colonial Theory Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.