



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021**

**EN2230 (A2): Reading Politics: Empire and the Postcolonial – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Craig Smith                      **PHONE:** 780-539-2894  
**OFFICE:** C308    **E-MAIL:** crsmith@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 2:15-3:30 or by appointment via Zoom

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the dynamics of colonization and its resistances in literary and other cultural texts and to the critical concepts and methods key to their study.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** 6 credits of junior English

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Rhys, Jean – *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
Roy, Arundhati – *The God of Small Things*  
Ghosh, Amitav – *The Calcutta Chromosome*  
Carey, Peter – *True History of the Kelly Gang*  
Barrett, A. Igoni – *Blackass*

Other class readings will be posted to MyClass (D2L); it is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, and written assignments

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Reading texts from the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australia, students will have the chance to learn about key questions, issues, and debates in the field of postcolonial literary studies. In this course, we will explore intersections of gender, class, nation, and ethnicity, we will trace the legacies of Western colonialism and anti-colonial resistance movements, and we will discuss

and debate issues of representational politics and literary value. Ultimately, we will attempt to understand what makes postcolonial literature a vibrant, distinct, and diverse body of writing.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- Familiarity with, and the ability to employ, terminology relevant to the understanding of postcolonial literatures and postcolonial theory
- Familiarity with different national historical contexts and an ability to discuss those contexts in relation to postcolonial writings
- The ability to perform close textual analysis of different genres of writing
- An ability to perform research and incorporate secondary materials effectively and responsibly into written assignments

### **TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

### **EVALUATIONS:**

Participation – 10%

Reading Quizzes – 5%

Secondary Source Report – 10%

Short Paper – 20%

Longer Paper – 25%

Final exam – 30%

**GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62

B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Week 1:	Introduction to the course
Weeks 2-3:	The internalized dynamics of colonization Anticolonial resistance, commitment, aesthetics
Weeks 4-5:	Imitation and originality Writing back
Weeks 6-7:	Language, voice, representation, and aesthetic value
Weeks 8-9:	Postcolonial disillusionment
Weeks 10-11:	Ways of knowing: Orientalism and Occidental Epistemologies
Weeks 11-12:	History, Nation, Authenticity
Weeks 13-15:	Whither Postcolonialism?

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Written assignments are to be uploaded to MyClass (D2L). Students must accept the Turnitin agreement to submit written work.
2. Assignments must be submitted on time. Late work will be penalized **5%** per day, with weekends counting as two days.
3. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
4. We are currently living through a pandemic, so your first priorities should be to look after your own health and the health of the people around you. My expectation is that students who are healthy will attend all classes. Students who exhibit symptoms should contact me to let me know they're ill and will be absent because of it. Excused absences will have no impact on a student's grade. However,

unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade and could result in a failing grade for that component of a student's final mark.

5. Students are required to check MyClass before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and announcements.
6. Students wishing to see me during office hours **must** wear a mask. Students who do not want to wear masks have the option of meeting with me via Zoom.
7. Cellphones should be out of sight during class time. Students who are repeatedly on their cellphones during class will receive failing grades for participation.
8. Students should feel free to email me with questions or concerns at any point during the semester. I will do my best to respond to your emails as quickly as possible, but students should anticipate a 24-48 hour delay (depending on which day, the time of the day, what stage of the semester we're in, etc.).
9. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in December. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at [www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES)

#### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.