

ENGLISH 2230 READING POLITICS: EMPIRE AND THE POSTCOLONIAL  
(Half-year course)

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Delivery Mode: Lecture/Seminar  
\*3 (3-0-0) Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

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

**Course Description:** Postcolonialism is an area of literary and interdisciplinary studies that is expanding in popularity and importance. Postcolonial studies look at the way politics and history have influenced contemporary identities. Postcolonial literature and texts have become central in articulating those identities and ‘writing back’ or writing against historical erasures and cultural inequities. There are many overlaps therefore with history, political science, cultural studies, sociology, and anthropology. As postcolonialism has become institutionalized in academic settings, there have also been some important criticisms of postcolonialism. This course will introduce you to postcolonial analysis and texts, but will also expose you to the debates, problems, and potential directions the discipline may go in. I urge you to question and also expose you to the debates, problems, and potential directions the discipline may go in. I urge you to question and challenge all the ideas and readings you are introduced to throughout the course, and to engage in an active process of critical thinking. We will examine literary theory, novels, short fiction, articles, poetry, and texts from popular culture. Postcolonialism is prominent in the literary field, but it is also heavily influential in the world around us.

**Required Texts & Resources:**

Loomba, Ania. Colonialism/Postcolonialism  
Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*  
Mosiener, Beatrice Culleton. *In Search of April Raintree*. Critical Edition, Ed Cheryl Suzack  
Clarke, George Elliot. *Beatrice Chancy*  
Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior*  
Kincaid, Jamaica. *My Brother*  
Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*  
Roy, Arundhati. *A God of Small Things*  
Achebe, Chinua *Things Fall Apart*  
Coetzee, J.M. *Disgrace*  
Highway, Tomson. *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

*Coursepack including but not limited to:* Rashid, Ian Iqbal. “A Pass to India”; Armstrong, Jeanette. “History Lesson”; Wa Thiong’o, Ngũgĩ. “from Decolonizing the Mind Native African Languages” (CP); Barton, Willow. “Where Have the Warriors Gone?”; Cisneros, Sandra. “Mericans”; Ondaatje, Michael “High Flowers”, “To Colombo”, “Women Like You”; Soyinka, Wole. “Telephone Conversation”; Walcott, Derek. “A Far Cry From Africa”; Harris, Claire. “from Drawing Down a Daughter”; Itwaru, Arnold. “from Shanti”; Silvera, Makeda. “Her Head a Village”; Trujillo, Renato. “Unsolicited Mail”; Burciaga, Jose Antonio. “Passive Resistance”

As well as theoretical texts selected from:

George Lamming, Homi K. Bhabha, Stephen Slemon, Chinua Achebe, Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Helen Tiffin, Sara Suleri, Anthony Appiah, Diana Brydon, Partha Chatterjee, Margery Fee, Ketu H. Katrak, Trinh T. Minh-Ha, Gayatri Spivak, Raja Rao, Dennis Lee, Barbara Christian, Toni Morrison, and Rey Chow.

**Evaluation:**

Participation 10%  
Presentation 20%  
Essay One 15%  
Essay Two 25%  
Final 30%