

**Course Title:** Postcolonial Literature: An Introduction to Key Debates and Texts  
**Year:** SF SH  
**Coordinator:** Melanie Otto

This module introduces students to key debates and texts in the field of postcolonial studies. The lectures are grouped together under headings relevant to historical and contemporary engagements with postcoloniality. Each theme consists of two lectures: one that frames the conceptual, critical, and historical debates on the given topic, the other discussing a literary text. The critical and literary works scheduled for each lecture represent the focus of discussion, but related authors, themes, and texts are introduced and discussed alongside them, giving direction for further study. In addition, and where appropriate, visual and audio material is used to illustrate as well as help generate debate.

1: Postcolonialism: Political Philosophy and Critical Practice

### **Under Western Eyes**

2: Edward Said, excerpts *Orientalism* (**eBook**)

3: E M Forster, *A Passage to India* (**eBook**)

### **Language and Identity**

4: -Chinua Achebe, 'The African Writer and the English Language', in Laura Chrisman and Patrick Williams (eds.), *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* (Pearson, 1994) (**eBook**)

-Ngugi wa Thiong'o, 'The Language of African Literature' in *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* (**eBook**)

-Kamau Brathwaite, excerpts *History of the Voice* (**copies on Blackboard**)

5: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

### **Subaltern Knowledge and Indigeneity**

6: -Gayatri C. Spivak, 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' Laura Chrisman and Patrick Williams (eds.), *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* (Pearson, 1994) (**eBook**)

-Sarah Hunt, 'Ontologies of Indigeneity: The Politics of Embodying a Concept' (**copies on Blackboard**)

-Walter D. Mignolo, 'From Cross-Genealogies and Subaltern Knowledges to Nèpantla' (**copies on Blackboard**)

7: **STUDY WEEK**

8: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

### **Hybridity, Mimicry, and Creolization**

9: -Frantz Fanon, excerpts *Black Skin, White Masks* (**eBook**)

-Homi Bhabha, 'Of Mimicry and Man'; 'Signs Taken for Wonders', *The Location of Culture* (Routledge 1994) (**eBook**)

- Édouard Glissant, excerpts *Poetics of Relation* (**copies on Blackboard**)  
10: Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

**Place and Displacement: Settler Colonialism**

- 11: -Lorenzo Veracini, 'The Settler-Colonial Situation'  
-D.E.S. Maxwell, 'Landscape and Theme'  
-Margaret Atwood, 'Death by Landscape'  
(**copies on Blackboard**)  
12: Shaun Tan/John Marsden, *The Rabbits*

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of this module students will

- have a sense of key foundational debates in postcolonial studies
- be familiar with key texts in the field
- be able to engage with and critically reflect on postcolonial literatures in a conceptual as well as thematic context
- have a sense of the connections between literature and wider cultural and political debates in a postcolonial context