

**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 students 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 from *Orientalism*

3: E M Forster, *A Passage to India*

### **Language and Identity**

4: -Chinua Achebe, 'The African Writer and the English Language'

-Ngugi wa Thiong'o, 'The Language of African Literature'

-Kamau Brathwaite, *History of the Voice*

5: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

### **Subaltern Knowledge and Indigeneity**

6: -Gayatri C. Spivak, 'Can the Subaltern Speak?'

-Sarah Hunt, 'Ontologies of Indigeneity: The Politics of Embodying a Concept'

-Walter D. Mignolo, 'From Cross-Genealogies and Subaltern Knowledges to Nepantla'

7: **STUDY WEEK**

8: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

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

9: -Frantz Fanon, excerpts from *Black Skin, White Masks*

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

-Édouard Glissant, excerpts from *Poetics of Relation*

10: Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

### **Place and Displacement: Settler Colonialism**

11: -Lorenzo Veracini, 'The Settler-Colonial Situation'

- Richard Gott, 'Latin America as a White Settler Society'
  - Margaret Atwood, 'Death by Landscape'
- 12: Shaun Tan/John Marsden, *The Rabbits*

### **Course Texts**

E M Forster, *A Passage to India* (any edition)  
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (any edition)  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (any edition)  
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (any edition)  
Shaun Tan/John Marsden, *The Rabbits* (any edition)

All other class reading listed in the module outline will either be made available on Blackboard or is available in the Library.

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module students will

- have an understanding of key foundational debates in postcolonial studies
- be familiar with essential texts in both theory and literature
- have a sense of English literatures in a global context
- be able to engage with and critically reflect on postcolonial literatures in a theoretical as well as thematic context
- be aware of the connection between literature and wider cultural and political debates in the context of postcolonial studies