

German

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	German, Austrian and Swiss Postcolonial Studies 1
Code	GRU44451
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	Minimum level: German B2
Module Co-ordinator	Clemens Ruthner ruthnerc@tcd.ie

Module Content

It is widely forgotten that between the 1880s and the First World War, the German Kaiserreich was among the colonial powers of Europe, occupying e.g. the territories that are known as Namibia, Cameroon, Togo, and Tanzania in Africa nowadays, along with New Guinea in the Pacific and the Chinese city of Qingdao.

In the case of Austria-Hungary, however, the mantra of Habsburg historiography remains that this empire was not a colonizer (overseas)- but maybe it was within the continent or, at least, in its own imagination. Strange is the case of Switzerland, too, which as trade superpower was an important facilitator of European colonialism but abstained from colonial conquest itself.

All of this has left traces in literature, be they affirmative or critical, which will be investigated in our Option module, including examples of colonial as well as of postcolonial writing between 1900 and our present, with some prominent authors and some lesser known. In a first step, Postcolonialism as one of the major contemporary approaches to literary and cultural studies are introduced, before the literary texts of our corpus will be discussed (extracts and whole books).

The first term focuses on Africa and in particular, its colonial history of genocides (Namibia; Rwanda); there will be another module of this kind in Hilary Term with a slightly different focus (on Asia and the South Pacific).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. Read and understand selected complex primary texts in the original German



2. Demonstrate a detailed critical knowledge of the primary texts studied in the course and of the relevant secondary literature
3. Display a deeper understanding of the specific literary or linguistic topic and its cultural, historical, theoretical and/or linguistic contexts
4. Present a critical analysis of the primary (literary or linguistic) material in a well-structured, correctly referenced essay in coherent English (or German, where required)

Assessment

Essay (100%)