

Hacettepe University
Faculty of Letters
Department of English Language and Literature

Syllabus

Title of the Course: IED 448 (02) Postcolonial British Culture and Literature

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Serpil Oppermann

Year and Term: Spring 2015

Classrooms and Hours: B2/204 Wednesday 13:00-15.50

Aim and Content: The aim of this course is to introduce British postcolonial studies with regards to the ways in which the legacy of colonialism and imperialism has affected literature and culture in the British context. The global reach of English literature in circulating ideas and shaping cultures will be discussed at the beginning of the course with a focus on the role that literature played in colonial discourse formation *and* how colonized cultures and natures were transformed during the process of colonization. We will then discuss the emergence of postcolonial discourse after the decolonization process and its impact in motivating new forms of expressions, diversity of voices, cultural traditions, and accompanying ethical concerns. Postcolonial discourse also raises theoretical issues about the *representation* of non-European cultures and literatures, and about issues of narrative realism and experimental forms.

In studying the emergence of postcolonial discourse, we will investigate cultural, theoretical, narrative, and political issues raised by the selected texts, including the role of imperialism, neocolonialism, and ecological imperialism. By the end of the course the students will be familiar with the key concepts of postcolonial theory and the key issues raised in postcolonial literature. They will also have an understanding of the significance of postcolonial discourse as a way of thinking about cultural production and will be able to apply this understanding to the interpretation of the literary texts discussed in class. Consequently, we will examine the discursive formations, power relations, and social factors in shaping the imperialistic ideologies and their counter ideas by referring to the major colonial and postcolonial concepts and terms being disseminated by the cultural and literary discourses, such as racial prejudices, cultural imperialism, subalternity, orientalism, mimicry, hybridity, identity formations, and binary oppositions embedded within the master narratives of Western epistemology.

Course Outline:

Week I-III: General Introduction to the colonialism, imperialism and postcolonial studies. Key concepts in Postcolonial Theory.

Texts to be discussed:

1. "Colonialism and the Politics of Postcolonial Critique," and Part I "Concepts in History" of Robert Young's *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction* (1- 69).
2. Gregory Castle, ed. *Postcolonial Discourses*, "Postcolonial critical Theories" 100-116
3. Selected chapters from *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*, eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin.
4. "Introduction" in Peter Anker's *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945*.
5. John Bellamy Foster and Brett Clark's "Ecological Imperialism: The Curse of Capitalism."
6. Timothy C. Weskel's "Agents of Empire: Steps Toward an Ecology of Imperialism."

Other Texts that the students are expected to read:

1. Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin's *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment* (Introduction, and Part I, 1- 81).
2. Laura Wright's *Wilderness into Civilized Shapes: Reading the Postcolonial Environment* (Introduction, 1-18)

Week III-IV: Ngugi wa Thiong'o's "From Decolonizing the Mind," Kamau Braithwaite's "Negus" and Okot P'Bitek From "Song of Lavino" in *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. Ed. John Thieme. Angela Carter's "Black Venus" in *Black Venus*

Week V-VI: Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* will be discussed with reference to: Aime Cesaire's "From Discourse on Colonialism" in *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. Eds. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman; and Chinua Achebe's "Colonialist Criticism" in *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin.

Week VII-VIII: Ben Okri's *Astonishing the Gods*

Week IX: Midterm I

Week X-XII: Buchi Emecheta's *Second Class Citizen* with Homi Bhabha's "Of Mimicry and Man" in *Location of Culture*

Week XIV: Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*

Method of Instruction: Interactive: comprised of discussions, student presentations and lectures.

Course Requirements: Attendance is obligatory. More than 12 hours of absence will result in F1. Students must be fully prepared and come on time to class, having read the assigned material.

Assessment: In the grading of oral and written work 25% will be taken off for language mistakes. There will be two midterm exams (50% each. In this will be included 10 % of presentations), and a Final Exam (50 %). The passing grade in the Final is 50.

Reading List:

A. Novels:

- Angela Carter. "Black Venus" in *Black Venus*
- Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*
- Ben Okri. *Astonishing the Gods*
- Buchi Emecheta. *Second Class Citizen*
- Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*

The following short texts are from *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. Ed. John Thieme. London: Arnold,1996

- a. Okot P'Bitek From "Song of Lavino"
- b. Ngugi wa Thiong'o's "From Decolonizing the Mind",
- c. Kamau Braithwaite's "Negus"

B. Critical texts:

1. John McLeod. *Beginning Postcolonialism* (2000)

2. Elleke Boehmer. *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature* (1995)
3. Ania Loomba. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (1998)
4. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin. *Key Concepts in Post-colonial Studies* (1998)
5. Jürgen Osterhammel. *Colonialism* (1997)
6. Aime Cesaire. "From Discourse on Colonialism," Franz Fanon. "On National Culture," Edward Said. "From Orientalism" in *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. Eds. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman (1993)
7. Ngugi wa Thiong'o's "From Decolonizing the Mind", Denis Williams's "From Other Leopards," Kamau Braithwaite's "Negus" in *The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*. Ed. John Thieme (1996)
8. Robert J.C. Young. *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*. (2001)
9. Chinua Achebe's "Colonialist Criticism" in *The Postcolonial Studies Reader* Eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin (1995)
10. Edward Said. *Culture and Imperialism* (1993)
11. Homi Bhabha. "Of Mimicry and Men." In *The Location of Culture* (1995)
12. Stephen Slemon. "Postcolonial Critical Theories." *Postcolonial Discourses: An Anthology*. Ed. Gregory Castle (2001)
13. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. Eds. *Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies* (1998)
14. Michel Foucault *Power and Knowledge*
15. Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin, eds. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment* (2010)
16. Laura Wright. *Wilderness into Civilized Shapes: Reading the Postcolonial Environment* (2010)

Useful Links:

1. <http://faculty.pittstate.edu/~knichols/colonial2.html#terms>
2. <http://www.literaryhistory.com/20thC/Groups/postcolonial.htm>
3. <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEnglish/imperial/imperial.htm>
4. <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~brians/anglophone/postcolonial.html>
5. <http://www.udel.edu/ArtHistory/ARTH435/Ashcroft.pdf>
6. http://www.mohamedrabeea.com/books/book1_3985.pdf
7. <http://www.postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk/links/>
8. http://www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/20044/institute_for_colonial_and_postcolonial_studies