

International Studies & English 367, Macalester College, Spring 2022 (v1, 1/15/22)

Postcolonial Theory

Instructor: David Chioni Moore, International Studies & English
Class: MWF 10:50-11:50 am, Carnegie 404, or [this link](#) if Zoom
Office hours: Varied options [with Google calendar signup](#), and by appointment. Carnegie 410 office if in person, or outdoors depending on weather, or Zoom when needed
Contact: mooredc@macalester.edu

Description: How did the United Nations grow from 51 to 183 member states between 1945 and 1994? Largely through epochal decolonization: the end of direct European control over vast areas of the earth, and the vexed creation of modern state-forms to replace that. The worlds of cultural and political analysis have both contributed and responded to this shift, producing a forceful body of writings named colonial and postcolonial critique. This course examines key documents, questions, and themes in that vast body of writing. Then, we will meaningfully add to it.

Content: The course begins with classic statements by Fanon, Césaire, Ngugi and Walcott, on psychology, mimicry, and resistance. The mid-point pivot is Edward Said's *Orientalism*. From there we cover diverse postcolonial topics – choosing from among endless possibilities – including gender, contemporary indigeneity, the field of post-colonial studies, the nation-state, forced migration, China, and global public health. Two works of fiction richly explore course themes. We will not attempt full geographic, regional, or thematic coverage.

Course Recommended For: strong sophomores and above who have already begun serious work in any discipline (political science, literature, history, anthropology, etc.) in which colonial, post-colonial, or first/third world encounters are assessed.

Course Conduct: The class will be run as a seminar – a joint exploration. Close reading and discussion of texts will be mixed with presentations by class members and the instructor.

Evaluation:

Ungraded preliminary paper	required
Postcolonial geo-historical quiz (minimum grade of B)	10%
Two mid-length (6-7 page) papers	16 + 16 = 32%
Active and insightful class participation	23%
A longer (12-15 page) final theory or research paper	35%

Notes: Timely class attendance is integral to the course and its grade. Inform me in advance of conflict with any religious holidays and/or any relevant disabilities; we'll arrange acceptable alternatives and/or accommodations, and your grades will be unaffected. In class, phones off, out of sight, and out of mind. I have a general trigger warning posted in the course Moodle; read it.

Covid Notes: Plans under Covid can be fragile. As you know, Mac plans to begin classes remotely (via Zoom), but hopes quickly to transition to in-person. Our in-person classes will meet in Carnegie 404, though (at least for the time being) masked, with the option to unmask if speaking. As public health guidance changes, we will adjust. If you are ill or suspect so, don't come to class, and let me know what's up. If we are on Zoom, present = camera on. During the course, communicate with me about any difficult situation you are in, whether directly or indirectly related to the pandemic. We'll adjust to make this work.

Paper format: See my full PDF roster of format requirements and writing advice on my I.S. faculty page. You are responsible for all format requirements. (They include, but are not limited to, double-spacing, numbered pages, 1" margins all around, 12-point font, un-numbered title page

with a good title, generous acknowledgements of all helpers and works used at the paper's end.) Physical papers are due under my office door by the day and time noted, and drop 1/2 grade per day from that point.

Schedule:

The date listed for each week (other than week #1) is the Monday of our MWF class. Unless otherwise noted, complete all the reading for that week by your arrival to Monday's class.

I. Classic Statements:

- 1 J21 Fri: Introduction, housekeeping, aims and scope
n.b.: preliminary paper, on Fanon's "The Lived Experience of the Black (Man)" (aka "The Fact of Blackness") due Sun Jan 23 by 4pm via emailed PDF
- 2 J24 The Empire Writes Back
M, W: Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness," from *Black Skin, White Masks*, 1952
W, F: Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, 1955
- 3 J31 Fanon
MWF: Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 1961 (read entire book except for the "Spontaneity" chapter and four case-studies)
- 4 F7 Questions of Mimicry
James Ngugi, et al, "On the Abolition of the English Department," 1968
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, "The Language of African Literature," 1986
Derek Walcott, "The Caribbean: Culture or Mimicry?" 1974
Talat Sait Halman, "A Monologue on Indifference," 1999
Alexander Kiossev, "The Self Colonizing Metaphor," 2010
- 5 F14 Literary Interlude – Weapons of the Weak?
M, W: Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*, 1956
F: Oyono worldwide, and DCM Said lecture on post-structuralism and Foucault

II. Pivot:

- 6 F21 Said's *Orientalism*
Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, 1978 – whole book except 150-200, 226-283, and the Afterword (please use an edition with the 1994 Afterword)
→ Paper 1 due Wednesday Feb 23rd, via email by 3:00 pm
- 7 F28 The Challenge of *Orientalism*
M & W: Said, the 1994 Afterword to his *Orientalism*, pp. 329-352
James Clifford, "On *Orientalism*," 1980
Richard G. Fox, "East of Said," 1993
Stephen Howe, "The Traveler and the Exile," obituary of Edward Said, 2003
F: in-class writing workshop

III. Trajectories:

- 8 M7 Gender/Race/Colonialism
M, W: Ann Laura Stoler, three essays on sexuality, race, class, and colonialism
F: postcolonial geo-historical quiz in class

→ Spring Break, March 12-20: no class

- 9 M21 Indigeneity and Nativeness
M: Jodi Byrd (Chickasaw Nation), "Cherokee Freedmen, Internal Colonialism, and the Racialization of Citizenship"
→ Paper 2 due, on Said, Wednesday, March 23rd, by 4:00 pm via emailed PDF
W: Balaton-Chrimes, "Indigeneity and Kenya's Nubians"
F: Aikau, "Indigeneity in the Diaspora: Polynesians in Utah"
- 10 M28 Literary Interlude II – Forced Migration
M: Writing workshop #2
W, F: Omar El Akkad, *What Strange Paradise*, 2021
- 11 A4 The Postcolonial Nation-State and its Forgone Alternatives
Getachew, *Worldmaking After Empire*, 2020: read through end chapter 3, p. 106
- 12 A11 The Postcolonial Nation-State II
M, W: complete discussion of Getachew, now having read to the end
F: The Institution of Postcolonial Studies: Ella Shohat, "Notes on the "Post-Colonial"," 1992, and Arif Dirlik, "The Postcolonial Aura," 1994
- 13 A18 China and Postcolonial Questions
M: deep history, and humiliation discourse: Perdue, Callahan, Schoppa
W: greater China (here Tibet): McGranahan
F: China, Africa, and Belt and Road (here Sri Lanka): Zheng and Roy-Chaudhury
- 14 A25 Global Public Health and the Postcolonial
M, W: King, McMillen, and Anderson
F: workshop for final paper projects, based on pre-circulated drafts or outlines
- 15 M2 M: course conclusion

Mac classes end Monday, May 2nd, 2022. Finals period, Thurs-Mon, May 5-9

→ Final papers due Saturday, May 7th, by 2:00 pm

Course Books Spring 2022: All six books should be available at the campus bookstore. I hate to say it, but Amazon (with a larger order or Prime) or abebooks.com (used) is typically cheaper than the campus bookstore. The first four texts have been assigned to generations of students, putting many used copies on the market.

Preference for Print: People who read in print rather than in e-formats read more deeply, grasp more fully, and retain more durably. Unless you have a compelling reason to use an e-reader, get these books in print.

Course Books (in order of reading)

1. Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism* [1955]. New York: NYU Press, 2000.
→ I will provide this short book in photocopy for anyone who wishes
2. Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth* [1961]. The Constance Farrington or the Richard Philcox translation. Intr. Jean-Paul Sartre. New York: Grove, 1968 or 2005
3. Oyono, Ferdinand. *Houseboy* [1956]. Trans. John Reed. Oxford: Heinemann, 1990, or Long Grove, IL: Waveland, 2012.

4. Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon, 1978. *Be sure to purchase an edition with the 1994 "Afterword" on pp 329-352.*
5. Getachew, Adom. *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination*. Princeton NJ: Princeton UP, 2020.
6. El Akkad, Omar. *What Strange Paradise*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2021.

A Note on Language: It is a directly postcolonial concern that all the assigned readings for this course are in English, including in translation. Students are encouraged to read Césaire, Fanon, Oyono and any other texts not originally in English in their original languages. For reasons why, see the 2017 book *Translating Fanon*, which our library holds. Students are also encouraged, in their individual readings on postcolonial questions, to read widely in any language you know.

Plus a rich roster of individual articles – see below.

Adjustments may be made during the course of the semester.

Essay Readings (version 1, January 12, 2022)
INTL-ENGL 367, Postcolonial Theory, Spring 2022, David Chioni Moore

Foundations:

1. Fanon, Frantz. "The Fact of Blackness." Chapter Five of *Black Skin White Masks* [1952], pp. 109-140. Trans. Charles Lam Markmann. New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1967..
2. Ngugi, James, Henry Owuor-Anyumba, and Taban Lo Liyong. "On the Abolition of the English Department (1968)," from Ngugi's *Homecoming: Essays on African and Caribbean Literature, Culture and Politics*. London, Ibadan, and Nairobi: Heinemann, 1972, pp. 145-150.
3. Ngugi wa Thiong'o. "The Language of African Literature," from his *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*. London, Nairobi, Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1986. pp. 4-33.
4. Walcott, Derek. "The Caribbean: Culture or Mimicry?" *Journal of InterAmerican Studies and World Affairs* 16 (1974): pp. 3-13.
5. Halman, Talat Sait. "A Monologue on Indifference." *Dialogue and Difference*, ed. Laurence Raw and Ayse Lahur Kirtunc. London: The British Council, 1999. 3-14.
6. Kiossev, Alexander. "The Self-Colonizing Metaphor." *Atlas of Transformation*, ed. Zybnek Baladran and Vit Havranek. Zurich: JRP Ringier/Tranzit, 2010. 567-575..

Orientalism and Edward Said:

7. Clifford, James. "On *Orientalism*." [Originally in *History and Theory* 19 (1980): pp. 204-223.] From his *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art*. Cambridge: Harvard Univ Press, 1988, pp. 255-276.
8. Fox, Richard G. "East of Said," in Michael Sprinker, ed., *Edward Said: A Critical Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1992. pp. 144-156.
9. Howe, Stephen. "Edward Said: The Traveller and the Exile." Obituary posted October 2, 2003 on www.opendemocracy.net/node/1516.

Stoler on Sex and Gender:

10. Stoler, Ann Laura. "Rethinking Colonial Categories: European Communities and the Boundaries of Rule." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31.1 (January 1989): 134-161.
11. Stoler, Ann Laura. "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in Twentieth-Century Colonial Cultures." In *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and*

Postcolonial Perspectives, ed. McClintock, Mufti, and Shohat. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1997: 344-373.

12. Stoler, Ann Laura. "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 34.3 (July 1992): 514-551.

Indigeneity:

13. Byrd, Jodi A. (Chickasaw Nation). "Been to the Nation, Lord, but I Couldn't Stay There: Cherokee Freedmen, Internal Colonialism, and the Racialization of Citizenship." In her *The Transit of Empire: Indigenous Critiques of Colonialism*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P (2011): 117-146.
14. Balaton-Chrimes, Samantha. "Indigeneity and Kenya's Nubians: seeking equality in difference or sameness?" *Journal of Modern African Studies* 51.2 (June 2013), pp. 331-354.
15. Aikau, Hokulani K. "Indigeneity in the Diaspora: The Case of Native Hawaiians at Iosepa, Utah." *American Quarterly* 62.3 (September 2010), pp. 477-500.

The Field or Institution of Postcolonial Studies:

16. Shohat, Ella. "Notes on the "Post-Colonial"." *Social Text* 31/32 (1992): 99-113.
17. Dirljik, Arif. "The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism." *Critical Inquiry* 20.2 (Winter, 1994): 328-356.

Postcoloniality and China:

18. Perdue, Peter C. "China and Other Colonial Empires." *The Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 16.1/2 (2009): 85-103.
19. Callahan, William A. "National Insecurities: Humiliation, Salvation, and Chinese Nationalism." *Alternatives* 29.2 (2004): 199-218.
20. Schoppa, R. Keith. Review of *Never Forget National Humiliation*, by Zheng Wang. *American Historical Review* 120.3 (June 2015): 994-95.
21. McGranahan, Carole. "Chinese Settler Colonialism: Empire and Life in the Tibetan Borderlands." In Stéphane Gros, ed. *Frontier Tibet: Patterns of Change in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*. Amsterdam UP, 2019.
22. Zhao, Suisheng. "A Neo-Colonialist Predator or Development Partner? China's Engagement and Rebalance in Africa." *Journal of Contemporary China* 23.90 (2014): 1033-1052.
23. Roy-Chaudhury, Shantanu. "China, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the Hambantota Port Project." *St Antony's International Review* 15.1 (May 2019): 153-164.
www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/27027759

Postcoloniality and Global Public Health:

24. King, Nicholas B. "Security, Disease, Commerce: Ideologies of Postcolonial Global Health." *Social Studies of Science* 32.5/6 (Oct-Dec 2002): 763-789.
25. McMillen, Christian W., and Niels Brimes. "Medical Modernization and Medical Nationalism: Resistance to Mass Tuberculosis Vaccination in Postcolonial India, 1948-1955." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52.1 (Jan 2010): 180-209.
26. Anderson, Warwick. "Making Global Health History: The Postcolonial Worldliness of Biomedicine." *Social History of Medicine* 27.2 (2014): 372-384.