

IIS 75
Fall, 2012
Class: wed, 2:45-5:30
Pitzer College

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Introduction to Postcolonial Studies

Description: An exploration of the ways in which resistance to colonization has shaped colonize peoples and colonizers alike past and present. Social movement websites, films, analytical readings, and short fiction will survey various perspectives (Marxism, postmodernism, feminist, queer theory) on postcolonial studies. The course introduces methods of constructing seemingly “natural” objects (nation, landscape, historical fact, women) in ways that decolonize social and material relations and knowledge.

Course Requirements:

Undergraduates: Complete course readings and participate actively in discussion of readings (oral or written) (35%); midterm quiz (15%); short paper (15%); and a final essay examination (35%). Graduate Students: Participation (35%) (with all recommended readings); Quiz (10%) ; essay exam (20%); 25 page research paper (35%).

Field Report: Tongva events Oct. 14 or Oct. 28 at Haramokngna Center, Route 2

Note: If students do not give sources for all ideas and/or information not their own or common knowledge, they risk plagiarism and assignment grade may be reduced.

Note: To request accommodations due to a disability, please contact Pitzer Associate Dean Jill Hawthorne at jill_hawthorne@pitzer.edu or at (909) 607-3553. For other colleges, please contact your disability officer: Dan Tzuang (PO), Sonia De La Torre-Iniguez (SCR), Julia Easley (CMC), and Maggie Browning (HMC).

Required Textbooks: (Available at Huntley Bookstore, unless otherwise indicated.)

Paul Chrisman and Linda Williams, Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader, Columba Univ. Pr.

Vine Deloria, Jr., For this Land: Writings on Religion in America, ed. James Treat, Routledge, 1999.

Mahasweta Devi, Imaginary Maps, Gayatri Spivak trans. & intro., Routledge, 1995.

Suheir Hammad, Zaatar Diva, Cypher/Rattapallax, 2005.

Meyda Yeğenoğlu, Colonial Fantasies: towards a feminist reading of Orientalism, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Robert Young, Postcolonialism, Blackwell, 2001.

Sakai Course Readings. (Available online.)

Recommended Textbooks:

Sim, Stuart, ed., The Routledge Critical Dictionary of Postmodern Thought, Routledge, 1999.

Course Goals:

1. develop familiarity with the anti-colonial and postcolonial social movements and their critiques of knowledge;
2. become acquainted with major terms and arguments and thinkers in postcolonial studies, including anti-colonial movements and feminist and queer critiques of and engagements with postcolonial studies;
3. develop a working familiarity with the politics of naturalized objects of knowledge, e.g., continent, nation, fact, history, the body, woman, from anti-imperialist, postcolonial, and decolonizing perspectives;
4. learn how to construct an object of knowledge with an awareness of the power/knowledge aspects of the process from Marxist/Gramscian and Foucauldian perspectives;
5. develop familiarity with a range of anti-imperialist and postcolonial approaches to the study of indigenous and colonizing groups from different modernist and postmodernist disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields;
6. successfully apply in student writing a particular anti-imperialist and postcolonial approach to a relevant topic of interest.

Reading and Assignment Schedule:

(Readings in textbooks are marked with an asterisk (*); all others are from Sakai; ► are recommended)

Week 1 Course Introduction.

Sept. 5 Readings: *DeLoria, "December 2, 1504," 295-6 (handout).
*Young, Ch. 2-3, p. 15-43.
► *Young, Ch. 1.

Week 2 Settler Colonies.

Sept. 12 Readings: Veracini, "The Settler Colonial Situation," "Disavowal," 1-15, 76-85.
Martí, "Our America," 288-96.

Week 3 Neocolonialism and Postcoloniality I.

Sept. 19 Readings: *Young, Ch. 4-5, p. 44-69.
*Yeğenoğlu, "Introduction," 1-13.

Week 4 Early Anti-colonial Resistance.

Sept. 26 Readings: *Young, Ch. 8, 10, 12, p. 101-11, 127-39, 161-66.

Week 5 Postcolonial Studies I.

Oct. 3 Readings: *Yeğenoğlu, "Mapping the Field," 14-38.
Bhabha, "Man or Mouse," 57-65.
► Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man," 125-33.
► *Bhabha (Chrisman and Williams), "Remembering Fanon," 112-123.

Week 6 Rethinking Race and National Liberation Movements.

Oct. 10 Readings: * Young, Ch. 19-20, p. 253-92.
*Fanon (Chrisman and Williams), 36-52.
*Cesaire (Chrisman and Williams), 172-80.
► Fanon, Wretched of the Earth. Trans. Philcox/Farrington. Grove Pr., 2004.

Oct. 10 Midterm Key Terms Quiz.

Course Schedule (cont.)

Oct. 14, Sunday, Tongva Native Foods dinner, Haramokngna Center, Route 2/Mt. Wilson

Week 7 Postcolonial Studies II: Feminist Interventions.

Oct. 17 Readings: **Kandiyoti* (Chrisman and Williams), 376-91.
 **Mohanty* (Chrisman and Williams), "196-220."
 ▶ **Young*, "Ch. 11 & 25, 140-43, 360-82."
 ▶ **Suleri* (Chrisman and Williams), "Woman Skin Deep," 244-56.

Week 8 Postcolonial Studies III: Postmodern Theory.

Oct. 24 Readings: **Yeğenoğlu*, "Veiled Fantasies," 39-67.
 ▶ **Yeğenoğlu*, "Sartorial Fabric-ations," 95-120.

Week 9 Postcolonial Studies IV: Gender and Sexuality Issues.

Oct. 31 Readings: **Devi*, Intro, Preface, and "The Hunt," ix-xxii, xxii-xxix, xxxi & 1-17.
 ▶ *Alexie*, *Business of Fancy Dancing* (film).

Oct. 28, Sunday, Tongva Rabbit Skin Blanket Workshop, Haramokngna Center, Rte 2/Mt. Wilson

Week 10 Derrida and Postcolonial Studies.

Nov. 7 Readings: **Young*, Ch. 28, 411-26.
 **Yeğenoğlu*, "The Battle of the Veil," 121-44.

Week 11 Subaltern Studies and Postcolonial Studies.

Nov. 14 Readings: *Chakrabarty*, "A Small History of Subaltern Studies," 467-85.
 **Devi*, "Pterodactyl," 154-96 & 197-205.
 ▶ *Devi*, "Pterodactyl," 95-153.

Week 12 Spivak and Subaltern Studies

Nov. 21 Readings: *Morris*, "Introduction," 1-18.
 Spivak, "In Response," 227-236.
 ▶ *Spivak*, "Subaltern Talk," 287-308.

Nov. 24 Happy Colonization Day?

Week 13 Postcolonial Studies and the United States.

Nov. 28 Readings: **Deloria*, *For This Land*, 1-15, 22-30, 100-107, 122-29, 218-28.
 Pease, "U.S. Imperialism," 203-19.

Nov. 28 Field Paper Due.

Week 14. Postcolonial Resistances: the United States.

Dec. 5 Readings: **Hammad*, *Zaatar Diva*, p.

Week 14 Decolonization?

Dec. 12 Readings: *Woodhull*, "Introduction," ix-xxiv.
 Veracini, "Telling the End," 104-16.

Final Exam: Tues, Dec. 17, 7pm.

Sakai Readings

- Martí, José, "Our America," José Martí: Selected Writings, ed. and trans. Esther Allen, Penguin Books, 2002, 288-96.
- Veracini, Lorenzo, "The Settler Colonial Situation," "Disavowal, Non-Encounter," and "Telling the End of the Settler Colonial Story," Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview, Palgrave, 2010, 1-15, 76-85, 104-16.
- Bhabha, Homi, "Are You a Man or a Mouse?" Constructing Masculinity, Ed. Maurice Berger, Brian Wallis, and Simon Watson. Routledge, 1995, 57-65.
- Bhabha, Homi, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse," October, 28 (Spr., 1984): 125-33; also pub. Location of Culture, 86-92.
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh, "A Small History of Subaltern Studies," A Companion to Postcolonial Studies, ed. Henry Schwarz and Sangeeta Ray, Blackwell, 467-85.
- Morris, Rosalind, "Introduction," Can the Subaltern Speak: Reflections on the History of an Idea, New York: Columbia Univ. Pr., 2010, 1-18.
- Spivak, Gayatri, "In Response," Can the Subaltern Speak: Reflections on the History of an Idea, New York: Columbia Univ. Pr., 2010, 227-36.
- Spivak, "Subaltern Talk," Spivak Reader, ed. Donna Landry and Gerald Maclean, Routledge, 1996, 287-308.
- Pease, Donald, "US Imperialism: Global Dominance without Colonies," in A Companion to Postcolonial Studies, ed. Henry Schwarz and Sangeeta Ray, Blackwell, 203-219.
- Woodhull, Winifred, "Introduction," Transfigurations of the Maghreb: Feminism, Decolonization, and Literatures, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993, ix-xxiv.