

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)



Spring 2018 Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	Postcolonial Theory
Course ID & Section	HUM 4826.0001
Credit Hours	3 (3,0)
Semester/Year	Spring 2018
Location	PSY 111

Course Description

This course serves as an interdisciplinary overview of postcolonial philosophy, literature, film, art and cultural theory. It provides a historical overview of colonial and postcolonial discourses, with particular attention to the critical vocabulary that has emerged

in the last half-century to describe both colonial practices and postcolonial experiences and strategies of resistance. We will interrogate how the struggle against Western colonization leads to a critique of Western thought and culture, with a focus on questions (and place) of identity, history, nation, race and gender.

Questions to be addressed include the following: What conceptual backgrounds inform particular ways of understanding, representing and colonizing a culture? Is European humanism a "colonizing" discourse? How is the East represented in the West? What are the meeting places of the global North and the global South? How have "scientific and scholarly" works contributed to colonial practices and policies? How do complex social, political, and philosophical ideas contribute to the ways in which we perceive those who are other than us? How do these same ideas give rise to the potential "self-colonization" of the other? How does understanding colonialism and past and present struggles against colonialism help us to understand contemporary national and international struggles over cultural and political identities, norms and practices? How was/is nationalism a form of resistance to colonialism and how does it reimport eurocentric ideals? How do race, gender, nation and colonialism intersect? What does it mean to define our contemporary world in terms of a "transnational age?" How might postcolonial theory help us to understand the period of multiraciality, dislocations and globalization in which we live?

Our discussions will attend not only to the subjects (and contents) of these theories and their elaborations, but also to the rhetoric of their arguments (how they say what they say, to what ends, with what audiences in mind, and how they position themselves vis-à-vis these audiences) and to the embodiment of these arguments in non-written forms (for example, art and political protest).

Course Objectives

1. To understand the historical contexts, geographical scope and political consequences of European colonization, anti-colonial resistance, the emergence of postcolonial nationhood, and the subsequent global order we experience today.
2. To examine powerful creative responses to European colonialism by members of the postcolonial world, both historically and presently.
3. To engage critically with the issues and texts these creative works address.
4. To develop a critical vocabulary for discussing the practices of colonialism and the experiences and creative strategies of postcolonial subjects.
5. To develop the ability to analyze and interpret the literary, scientific, visual and cultural texts we study from multiple critical and theoretical perspectives.
6. To discuss (both orally and in written form) a wide range of questions and problems facing our contemporary postcolonial world.
7. Through a focus on the postcolonial, to satisfy the broader goals and objectives of Humanities scholarship, including:
 - o Developing critical thinking and writing skills.
 - o Reading, analyzing and responding to both primary texts and secondary materials.
 - o Synthesizing ideas drawn from diverse disciplines
 - o Integrating primary and secondary texts into student writing and presentations.
 - o Developing arguments about (literary, scientific, visual, performative and social) texts.

Required Texts

This course will introduce you to some of the key works that argue for a link between western enlightenment ideals and colonialism, written by anti-colonialist theorists trained in western theory. Readings for the class will range across literary genres (philosophy, literature, science) and visual representations and engage a (sometimes difficult) selection of critical and theoretical texts by scholars who have come to define the field of postcolonial studies, such as Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Gayatri Spivak, and others. The critical readings are not simply intended as a key to understanding the written and visual texts we'll study, but as a crucial part of the broader conversation that has emerged between philosophical, literary, scientific, visual, and critical cultural productions.

Required readings will include the following:

From the bookstore:

- Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, *Postcolonial Studies: The Key Concepts*, 3rd Ed (New York: Routledge, 2013)
- John McLeod, *Beginning Postcolonialism*, 2nd ed (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010)

Available online (at Modules):

- Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1978), excerpts
- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin White Masks* (New York: Grove Press, 1967), excerpts
- Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (Aunt Lute Books, 1987), excerpts
- Articles by other authors made available online and noted on schedule below.

You need to purchase the first 2 texts immediately. Ashcroft et al provide a useful glossary of terms, themes and concepts and you will need to consult it frequently as we introduce new terminology throughout the course. McLeod's book is a primer that we will also use throughout the semester. It will provide the structure for our investigations and provide historical, cultural and theoretical context for some of the primary texts provided to you as online readings. Fanon, Said, Anzaldúa and others provide us with foundational texts and thinking that contemporary authors frequently reference in current discussions of east-west relations, black-white relations, south-north and indigenous-settler relations.

Required Viewing/Listening:

Artistic and creative works help to illustrate theoretical concepts and themes. They also teach us themselves how perceive, think, feel and act in the world. Thus, in this course, as in interdisciplinary Humanities course, we will also engage visual texts. Sometimes these will be assigned viewing you need to do outside of the class to prepare for it. Othertimes, we will view material together in class.

Visual texts to be used in class may include films (shorts and features, fictional and documentary), paintings, sculptures, photographic series, performance and installation art as relevant and included in the course schedule or student presentations. If you miss a class, you are responsible for viewing materials on your own. I will attempt to keep an accurate listing of these on the course website as we go (with links as available). However, you should also check with a classmate regarding any material missed.

Course Requirements

Note: More detailed descriptions of each assignment are (or will be made) available at the "Assignments" link on the left menu.

1. ATTENDANCE (ongoing) 15%

The best learning happens within the context of a learning community in which each student is an active participant. Since you cannot participate--even as a listener--if you are not present, I will take attendance. Attendance is worth 15 points. You are permitted 2 unexcused absences during the term. For each further unexcused absence, you will lose 1 point. Please note that I also expect you to be present for the full class period, both for your own learning and in order not to disrupt the class. You will lose half a point, if you arrive late or leave early.

2. PARTICIPATION (ongoing): 20%

Your informed participation is critical to both your own learning the learning of your classmates. This portion of your grade will reflect the quantity and quality of both your formal and informal oral participation in class as well as your online participation, broken down as follows:

- Participation on a team "jigsaw" project that presents background on an author and her or his work (5%)
- Participation on discussion boards pertaining to current events relevant to our class (5%)
- Contribution of 2 items to the "scholarly resources" page (5%)

- Ongoing informed participation in class discussions (5%)

3. RESEARCH JOURNAL (ongoing): 15%

You will purchase a paper journal in which you will respond to instructor prompts (see above), record questions and ideas of your own, and develop your final research project (see below) over the course of the semester. I will collect these 2x during the semester, but spot check them for progress more frequently. You should bring them to class every day, as you are responsible for using and producing them upon request.

4. ANALYSIS OF A CULTURAL ARTIFACT (rough draft): 15%

A brief essay (5-6 pages) demonstrating your ability to apply postcolonial theories by analyzing a cultural artifact (film, novel, photograph, news story, advertisement, etc.) of your choosing.

5. PEER AND SELF REVIEW: 10%

You will provide 2 of your peers with feedback on their draft essay. You will also be asked to provide critical reflection on your own draft. This portion of your grade will reflect the quantity and quality of your efforts to provide constructive suggestions aimed at helping your classmates (and yourself) to further develop and refine their drafts prior to final submission.

6. ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL ARTIFACT (final draft): 25%

Your earlier cultural analysis (above) will be revised, expanded and developed in accordance with feedback received from peers and instructor. This final essay (8-10 pages) will be submitted during exam week.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Late assignments will be docked a half letter grade for each calendar day they are late. I reserve the right to refuse acceptance of any assignment more than one week late.

Opportunities for extra credit may be provided during the course of the semester at the instructor's discretion. When offered, they will be offered to all students and not just to some. Please do not ask for extra-credit at the end of the semester, as it is too late at that point to remedy a lack of learning during the semester.

Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Points
A	90 – 100 points
B	80 – 89 points
C	70 – 79 points
D	60 – 69 points
F	59 and below

Assignment	Percentage of Grade

Attendance (ongoing)	15%
Participation (ongoing + assigned projects)	20%
Research Journal	15%
Analysis of Cultural Artifact (rough draft 15%, final draft 25%)	40%
Peer and Self Review	10%

Attendance Policy

See attendance and participation under "course requirements" above.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct \(http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students\)](http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule \(http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/\)](http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Academic Activity Verification/Financial Aid

All instructors are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. I will do so by recording your attendance.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities, as am I. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations should also be registered with [Student Accessibility Services \(http://www.sds.ucf.edu/\)](http://www.sds.ucf.edu/), Ferrell Commons 185, phone: (407) 823-2371, e-mail: sas@ucf.edu, before requesting accommodations from the professor. This is so that SAS and your professor can work together to best accommodate your learning needs while meeting the learning objectives of the course.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Late assignments will be docked a half letter grade for each calendar day they are late. I will not accept any assignment more than one week late, unless there are extenuating circumstances related to UCF's excused absence policy.

Opportunities for extra credit may be provided during the course of the semester at the instructor's discretion. When offered, they will be offered to all students and not just to some. Please do not ask for extra-credit at the end of the semester, as it is

too late at that point to remedy a lack of learning during the semester.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Schedule:

The daily reading and assignment schedule will be made available at course [Modules](#), where links to assignment instructions, online readings and a variety of other online sources we will use in class will also be available. This will be updated as we go. Please check it as well as the course calendar/schedule below.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Thu Jan 18, 2018	 Jigsaw Project (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449369) due by 3pm
	 Current Events: South Asia (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449107) due by 11:59pm
	 Current Events: The Caribbean (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449101) due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 30, 2018	 Current Events: Africa (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425969) due by 11:59pm
	 Current Events: Settler Colonial Countries (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449108) due by 11:59pm
	 Current Events: The Middle East (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449103) due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 6, 2018	 Research Journal (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5441597) due by 10am
Thu Mar 8, 2018	 Scholarly Resource Contributions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5449571) due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 3, 2018	 Draft Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425993) due by 3pm

Date	Details	
Thu Apr 5, 2018	 Peer Review (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425997)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 19, 2018	 Informed Contributions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425996)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 27, 2018	 Final Essay (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425994)	due by 3pm
Tue May 1, 2018	 Attendance (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425975)	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion question, subaltern subjects (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425992)	
	 Discussion Questions Fanon Ch 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425981)	
	 Discussion questions on Spivak, the subaltern (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425986)	
	 Discussion Questions Said, Imaginative Geographies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425989)	
	 Discussion Questions, Anzaldua, Homelands and Language (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425977)	
	 Discussion questions, Fanon 1-3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425979)	
	 Discussion Questions, Said Orientalist Structures (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425990)	
	 Discussion questions, Transracial Adoption (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425991)	
	 Final Essay Proposal (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425995)	
	 Midterm Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425961)	
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1273007/assignments/5425999)	