HUM 4826: Postcolonial Theory

Section 0W60

Term: Spring 2021

Course Modality: ONLINE (W)

Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Humanities

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

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Instructor:	Dr. Stacey L. DiLiberto You may call me Dr. DiLiberto or Professor DiLiberto (or Dr. "D")
Office Location:	PSY 232
Office Hours:	T 10 - 11 AM: Virtual hours via email, Zoom or "Conferences"; by appointment.
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Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites: Any 3000-level HUM course or C.I.
Course Co-requisites: None
Other Enrollment Requirements: None

Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary overview of postcolonial philosophy, literature, film, art and cultural theory.

More specifically, this course provides a historical overview of colonial and postcolonial discourses, with particular attention to the critical vocabulary that has emerged in the latter half of the 20th 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?
- What is Western culture and how is the East represented in the West?
- 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 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 recycle Eurocentric ideals?
- How do race, gender, nation and colonialism intersect?
- How might postcolonial theory help us to understand the 21st century and the period of globalization in which we live?

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.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

- John McLeod, *Beginning Postcolonialism.* 2nd ed. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0719078583. **You will want to have access to this text by the second week of classes**.
- You will want to choose ONE of the following novels to read and write about for your final paper, and you will want to have your chosen text no later than midterm. These titles have not been ordered at the UCF bookstore since cheaper, used copies can be purchased online or borrowed from the UCF library or your local public library:
    o *Abeng* by Michelle Cliff
    o *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys

- o *Half a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
  - o *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
  - o *The Mersault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud
- You will be required to watch ONE of the following popular films for your midterm. These films are available on video streaming services such as Netflix or Disney+ or can be rented for a small fee.
  - o Disney's *Pocahontas*
  - o Disney's *Aladdin*
  - o *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*
  - o *Apocalypse Now*
- All other required readings and learning materials will be provided to you on Webcourses.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 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.
- Analyze powerful creative responses to European colonialism by members of the postcolonial world, both historically and presently.
- Engage critically with the issues and texts these creative works address.
- Develop a critical vocabulary for discussing the practices of colonialism and the experiences and creative strategies of postcolonial subjects.
- Analyze and interpret the literary, scientific, visual and cultural texts we study from multiple critical and theoretical perspectives.
- Evaluate historical and cultural issues in coherent written and verbal forms.
- Gather, synthesize, and analyze information from appropriate resources and be able to critically evaluate information and sources for accuracy and credibility.

Communication

- Remember the "**Three Before Me**" rule before emailing your professor. If you have a non-content (learning material) related question about the course, do the following:
  - o Read the syllabus carefully; the answer is probably there.
  - o Review the Course Orientation module, syllabus FAQ page, and/or current learning module on Webcourses.
  - o Email the TA(s) [if there are any] using the steps below.
- In this class, our official mode of communication is through email. It is preferred that you use the "inbox" function l through Webcourses since it is convenient and organizes messages by course.
- If you use non-Webcourses email (e.g. Knightsmail), **please include the course and section number in the subject line** of all email communications.

- As of 2009, Knightsmail is the only official student email at UCF. Class rosters list Knightsmail addresses rather than external email addresses, and all official class communications will be sent only to the Knightsmail addresses. Students are responsible for checking their Knightsmail accounts regularly.
- All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be **respectful and professional**. Think of an e-mail as a formal letter when corresponding with instructors (as opposed to a text message). **Begin with a salutation** (a greeting, e.g., "Dear Dr. DiLiberto") and **conclude with your name**. Be courteous and considerate in your language and **re-read your e-mail before sending**.
- Check your email and Webcourses frequently for announcements, changes to our schedule, etc.
- I will respond to emails within 72 hours (usually sooner), except on the weekends, which is my "free time."

Course Activities

Required Assignments

- **Syllabus Quiz (Academic Activity)**

The Syllabus Quiz is to be completed online during the first week of classes. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz no later than Friday, January 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM. The sooner, the better. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid**. This score will count towards your discussion grade.

- **Discussions (Participation and Engagement) 25%**

This course is structured as primarily an active learning experience. This means what you bring to class in terms of preparation affects your overall experience in the course. Discussion posts and responses are also the online course equivalent to active participation in a live class. Thus a good portion of your course grade will reflect the quantity and quality of your efforts to engage with your peers in informed and intellectually interesting discussions about the cultural productions as explored in our course materials. These discussions will take place in smaller discussion groups to which you are randomly assigned. You will complete 10 learning material discussions (graded), and one discussion, the icebreaker, will be graded on completion. Deadlines are on the course schedule. You will be evaluated on the quantity and quality of your participation, as well as your professionalism (e.g., your ability to meet deadlines, proofread your work, etc.). Your lowest discussion score (not including the syllabus quiz or final paper peer review discussion) will be dropped.

- **Reading Responses 25%**

During the course of the semester you will apply postcolonial theories and respond to 5 prompts provided for you on our topics and readings. Reading Responses (RR) should average

500-750 words each (more is fine; it will be difficult to make substantive reflections in much less than this).

- **Midterm Essay 20%**

A brief essay (5-6 pages) demonstrating your ability to apply postcolonial theories by analyzing an assigned film.

- **Final Paper 30%**

In lieu of a final exam, students will complete a final paper addressing postcolonial theme(s) in a work of literary fiction (a novel from the reading list above that is to be chosen by midterm). It will demonstrate your ability to engage with a literary text and apply concepts and themes from the class. The paper will be worked on in stages with an exploratory draft due around week 12 and a peer review draft due in the last week of classes. The paper will be due at the start of finals week. Detailed instructions will be provided.

Reading:

Your reading load will vary depending on what we're reading but expect to read every week; sometimes 20-50 pages or more. You are expected to read what is assigned to you before completing assignments. Your notes and annotations will help you with discussion.

More about Assignments and Class Preparedness:

All assignments should be submitted by the due date. **No assignments will be accepted late.** Keep in mind:

- Your lowest discussion score (not including the final paper peer review or syllabus quiz) will be dropped.
- No formal writing assignments (reading responses, midterm, or final paper) will be dropped.

To be fair to everyone, I apply the same policy to everyone. No exception on deadlines.

I will not accept assignments via e-mail unless you have **prior approval** from me. There is a specific submission box in Webcourses for each one of your assignments. You will upload them into the designated area as attachments on time. If you choose to turn in an assignment outside of Webcourses or after it's due, IT IS LATE, no exceptions.

Technology problems are not an excuse for lateness. **Anticipate any technical glitches and give yourself plenty of time to submit your work**. Do not wait until the last minute. I cannot be held responsible for lost emails, attachments that won't open, Webcourses being down, unreliable internet connections, etc. Save your assignments in the proper, readable format

(.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf), clearly label your files, and save often. I will not be responsible for catching up students who have fallen behind in the class. I have outlined the entire course for you week-by-week with all due dates so that you know what is coming ahead of time. **Follow the course schedule and learning modules.**

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit in my classes, so please do not ask. Do your best throughout the class and you will not need it. If, on the rare occasion, I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. I will not select you out for special treatment.

Also be aware, there are NO opportunities for extra assignments at the end of the semester when all assignments are complete.

Time Commitment

You should log into this course at least twice a week (at a minimum) and have access to steady, reliable internet. For most students striving for B grades or higher, I recommend that you schedule about 6-9 hours per week for engaging with this course. Your background knowledge/experience and other variables may require you to spend additional time. Please plan accordingly by scheduling time on your calendar now. Several factors influence student academic performance and long-term learning. Active engagement in all course activities (e.g., class participation, readings, homework, assignments, projects, studying, etc.) will contribute to your learning and to success in this course. UCF offers a wide range of free academic resources to support student success, including services offered by KARSLinks to an external site. (Knights Academic Resource Services), SARCLinks to an external site. (Student Academic Resource Center), UCF LibrariesLinks to an external site., the University Writing CenterLinks to an external site., the Math Success CenterLinks to an external site., the Chemistry Tutoring CenterLinks to an external site., and VARCLinks to an external site. (Veterans Academic Resource Center).

About Discussions

Since this is an online course, the discussion forums are intended to foster mainly student-to-student collaboration. Although the instructor will be grading the discussion forums, expect to provide each other feedback on questions. **For this reason, the instructor will not respond to student postings for at least the first 24 hours and then only as needed**. This is to allow your classmates time to respond to your questions and in this way, we all gain from our diverse perspectives on the readings and discussion scenarios. Be sure to follow discussion netiquette guidelines and act in an appropriate, professional manner in all interactions with your classmates. Remember, everything you put online remains online in some fashion, so if you wouldn't want something inappropriate appearing in a place for everyone to see, **don't post it**.

"Netiquette" (The Internet Code of Conduct)

The UCF Student Code of Conduct also extends to the development of responsible personal and social conduct on the Internet - "Netiquette" - the etiquette of online behavior. Consider the Internet as your classroom! Act politely, courteously, and respectfully. Since your instructor can see just about everything you write or send, **be careful and respectful** and realize that it is easy to offend people without intending to do so. For example, by WRITING IN ALL UPPERCASE IT APPEARS THAT I AM YELLING AT YOU! So, most importantly, behave as you would in the "real" classroom, try to "look good," be respectful of the opinions of others (even if you strongly disagree with them - you can say so, but do not be nasty), and be forgiving of others!

Academic Writing Only

Remember that the rules of academic writing apply in this online environment. This means proofreading your work, using academic (not conversational or texting) language, and paying attention to the formatting of your work. When posting a discussion, for instance, remember to **break up paragraphs and/or indent** so that we can easily read your work. You will be penalized for improper use of grammar and academic writing conventions.

Essay Assignments (if applicable)

Make sure that every formal writing assignment includes your name, my name, course title, date, page numbers and a title. Note that your title is centered, but not in bold, underlined, or italicized. **Papers should be no shorter than the length assigned and do not experiment with fonts and page layout to get the required length**. As a trained manuscript editor, I'll notice. Use 12 point font (Times New Roman or Calibri preferred) with 1-inch margins on all sides. This is MLA format (consult the [Purdue MLA Style Guide](#)).

Attendance/Participation

Since this is an online class, attendance is measured and assessed by frequent and timely participation in class discussions and successful submission of assignments by their due dates unless extreme and unavoidable circumstances (as determined by instructors' judgment, including, for instance, hospitalization, military deployment, religious observances, and jury duty) prevent you from engaging with the learning materials. If you fall behind on more than one assignment/post/quiz (that is, you haven't submitted two items in a row by their due dates), you will likely be contacted by me. The first week's attendance will be measured by your promptness in completing the first discussion post and syllabus quiz.

If you believe an extenuating circumstance is keeping (or will keep) you from engaging in the class and/or submitting work on time (such as for a university authorized event or activity or a medical emergency), contact me **before** the due date of the assignment. Keep the lines of communication open.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious Observances

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, review the UCF [policy](#).

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs. In any of these cases, please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

IMPORTANT: Because considerable flexibility is already built into this online class, please do not contact me for make-up work unless you can document that it was, in fact, impossible for you to do the required assignment during the entire time it was available to you.

If, due to an extreme, extenuating circumstance described above (e.g. severe illness or hospitalization), you cannot notify the instructor before a missed assignment is due, then you must notify the instructor **within two days** after the missed deadline to have her consider whether the assignment can be made up. After two days without any notification the assignment cannot be made up.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Assignment Weights	
Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Discussions	25%

Reading Responses	25%
Midterm Paper	20%
Final Paper	30%
Total	**100%**

Grading scale	
Letter Grade	**Points**
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Consult the latest Undergraduate or Graduate catalog for regulations and procedures regarding grading such as Incomplete grades, grade changes, and grade forgiveness.

Final Grades and Incompletes

All grades are final. There is no rounding of grades in this class.

Incompletes and instructor withdrawals are given solely at the instructor's discretion and are **extremely rare**. Students who have not attended the majority of courses or not completed the vast majority of coursework will not be considered for an "incomplete." Instructor withdrawals are reserved for very unique circumstances. Even medical reasons may not be enough - medical withdrawal from the course is a preferable option in many cases, but if medical withdrawal is to be taken, it needs to be taken from all courses in a given term. So, please do not take on too much in a term, thinking that it will be easy to get an incomplete and then finish the work later. Incompletes will require documented evidence from the student. Under no circumstances will students be granted incompletes or withdrawals at or near the end of the semester because they do not like the final grade they expect to earn.

Course Schedule

The [course schedule](#) provides you with all topics, assignments, and due dates for the entire semester. Although there might be changes which will be communicated to you ahead of time, plan to follow this schedule for the duration of the semester.

University Services and Resources

Academic Services and Resources

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at [UCF Student Services](#). Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.

If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the [UCF Online Student Guidelines](#) for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

COVID-19

To protect members of our community, [everyone is required to wear a facial covering](#) inside all common spaces including classrooms. Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students registered with Student Accessibility Services should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#).

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)".

More about Plagiarism:

Students have the responsibility to fully understand what plagiarism is and to ensure they do not commit it. Consequently, the following forms of "accidental" plagiarism are not excusable:

- "Forgetting" or "not knowing" that you must provide in-text citations and works cited information indicating the source of a work you consulted and are paraphrasing or summing up ideas in your paper.
- "Forgetting" or "not knowing" that you have to place "quotation marks" around the ideas of another when you are quoting their exact wording and provide relevant citation information about the work from which you are quoting.
- Handing in work that you previously submitted for a grade in another class, or are simultaneously submitting to another class, without discussing it first with the professor.

Students who make formatting errors as they seek to accurately and honestly distinguish between their work and the work of others, will *not* be deemed to have committed plagiarism. When significant portions of your work originate in an uncited and unacknowledged author you have committed a serious act of plagiarism, whatever your explanation. All serious or egregious acts of plagiarism receive a minimum of a "0" on the plagiarized assignment with no opportunity to resubmit a new attempt.

Plagiarism and/or cheating of any kind is unethical and honesty is expected out of you. All assignments are designed for you to provide your OWN thoughts. Submit your own work—this means do not collaborate with other classmates on assignments unless you are specifically asked to do so. When in doubt, cite all sources and ideas that are not your own (correctly) and do not rely on the works of others to substitute for your own efforts. If you are unclear how to cite, see me, consult a writing handbook, or someone at the writing center.

WARNING: You may be tempted to use internet sites such as Google, Wikipedia, About.com, SparkNotes, Cliffs Notes, Schmoop, Chegg, etc. to help you find the answers to some of the discussion questions for the readings, but this is considered CHEATING. If you do not quite understand a reading, answer the prompts to the best of your ability. THIS IS HOW YOU WILL LEARN. Also, don't just copy someone else's answers and say, "I agree!" You will need to answer each prompt with your own thoughts and your own words.

Turnitin:

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit www.turnitin.com.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden Rule. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety Statement

Fully online course sections (W, V)

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the

information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

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 credited 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.