

**International Studies and English 367: Macalester College, Fall 2011**

**Postcolonial Theory**

Instructor: David Chioni Moore, International Studies, English, and African Studies  
Class: MWF 1:10 – 2:10, Carnegie 105  
Office hours: Tues 10:15-11:30, Wed 12:00-12:45, Fri 2:30-4:00, and by appointment.  
Please use the signup sheet outside my office door, C-410  
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*Description:* One of the past century's most profound transformations was decolonization: the end of direct European rule over vast areas of the earth. The worlds of cultural and political analysis have both contributed and responded to this shift, producing a forceful body of writings we name 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.

*Course Recommended For:* juniors (and very 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.

*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 such as anthropology, the environment, feminism, the institutionalization of post-colonial studies, and more. Two works of fiction richly explore course themes. We will not attempt full geographic or regional coverage.

*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:*

Preliminary paper	absolute requirement
Roundtable: attendance at two of four sessions	requirement
A compact oral presentation of a postcolonialist book	8%
Two mid-length (6-7 page) papers	16 + 16 = 32%
Active and insightful class participation	20%
A longer (12-15 page) final theory or research paper	40%

*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. Cellphones that ring or vibrate in class may be answered by the instructor.

*Paper format:* See my full roster of paper format requirements and writing advice on my homepage, linked from the 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. RTFM.

### Schedule:

**The date of the Monday class is listed for each week. All reading should be completed by the start of Monday's class unless otherwise specified.**

#### **I. Classic Statements:**

- 1 S7 Wed: Introduction, housekeeping, aims and scope  
*n.b.:* preliminary paper, on Fanon's "*The Lived Experience of the Black (Man)*" (a.k.a. "*The Fact of Blackness*") due Thursday, Sept 8, by 1:00 pm under my office door; this is an absolute course requirement: no exceptions or late papers accepted.  
Fri: discussion of Fanon, and course administration.
- 2 S12 The Empire Writes Back  
Frantz Fanon, from *Black Skin, White Masks*, 1952: "The Fact of Blackness"  
Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (including interview), 1955
- 3 S19 Fanon  
Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 1961 (read entire book except for the "Spontaneity" chapter and four case-studies)
- 4 S26 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  
Katherine Boo, "The Americanization of Chennai," 2004  
→ no class Friday Sept 30: DCM in NYC
- 5 O3 Literary Interlude I – Weapons of the Weak?  
M, W: Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*, 1956  
Fri: Ann Laura Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable," 1997, and DCM Said prep lecture on post-structuralism and Foucault

#### **II. Pivot:**

- 6 O10 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)  
→ class meets 20 mins early (12:50 to 1:50) on Wed  
→ no class Friday Oct 14: DCM in Budapest  
**Paper 1 due Friday, October 14, at 12:30 p.m. under my office door**

**Note: the Macalester International Roundtable**, this year on "Children of the World: The Dialectic of Promise and Vulnerability," is October 13-15. Keynote Thursday 4:30-6:15 pm, talks Friday 9:30-noon and 1:30-4:00, and roundtable Saturday 10-noon. Attendance at two of four sessions required.

- 7 O17 The Challenge of *Orientalism*  
Mon: continuation of *Orientalism*  
Wed and Fri: 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 Traveller and the Exile," obituary of Edward Said, 2003

#### **III. Trajectories:**

- 8 O24 A Disciplinary Case-Study: The Question of Anthropology  
Edward W. Said, "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors," 1989  
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, "Anthropology and the Savage Slot," 1991  
Jan Blommaert, "Language, Asylum, and the National Order," 2009  
[Fall Break Th-Fri October 27-28: no Friday class this week]
- 9 O31 Debates on Postcolonial Theory  
Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America*, Introduction, 1971  
Aijaz Ahmad, "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness ...," 1987  
Ella Shohat, "Notes on the 'Post-Colonial'," 1992  
Arif Dirlik, "The Postcolonial Aura," 1994  
Aihwa Ong, "Maids, Neoslavery, and NGOs," 2006
- 10 N7 Feminism, Religion, Postcolonialism  
Kwok Pui-lan, *Postcolonial Imagination and Feminist Theology*, 2005  
**Paper 2 due Thursday, November 10, at 1:00 pm under my office door**
- 11 N14 Literary Interlude II: Postcolonial 19th/21st Century  
Amitav Ghosh, *Sea of Poppies*, 2006, week 1 of 2
- 12 N21 Literary Interlude II, cont'd: Ghosh, *Sea of Poppies*, week 2 of 2  
[Thanksgiving is Thurs November 24: no Friday class this week]
- 13 N28 Workshop  
workshop for final paper projects, based on pre-circulated prospecti
- 14 D5 Extending the Debates  
David Moore, "Is the Post- in Postcolonial the Post- in Post-Soviet?" 2001  
Adeeb Khalid, "The Soviet Union as an Imperial Formation," 2007  
Kevin Rudd, "Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples," 2008  
Barack Obama, Kenya chapters 15 and 19 from *Dreams From My Father*, 1995  
Alexander Kiossev, "The Self Colonizing Metaphor," 2010  
Talat Sait Halman, "A Monologue on Indifference," 1999
- 15 D12 Conclusion: Monday's final class session will focus on evaluation of the course

Macalester classes end Tuesday, December 13. Finals period, Thurs-Mon, December 15-19.  
**Final papers due Friday, December 16, by 2:00 pm under my office door.**

**Course Books (in order of reading; available at campus bookstore)**

1. Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism* [1955]. NY: N.Y.U. Press, 2000.
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
4. Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon, 1978. *Be sure to purchase an edition with the 1994 "Afterword" on pp 329-352*
5. Pui-lan, Kwok. *Postcolonial Imagination and Feminist Theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.
6. Ghosh, Amitav. *Sea of Poppies: A Novel*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008.

**Plus a rich roster of 23 individual articles — contents page follows.**

Students encouraged to read Césaire, Fanon, Oyono and Galeano in their original.

## Essay and Article Readings

I.S. /English 367, Postcolonial Theory, Fall 2011, David Chioni Moore

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. Boo, Katherine. "Letter From India – The Best Job in Town: The Americanization of Chennai." *The New Yorker*, July 5, 2004: pp. 56-69.
6. 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. Anne McClintock, Aamir Mufti, and Ella Shohat. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1997: pp. 344-373.
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](http://www.opendemocracy.net/node/1516).
10. Said, Edward. "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors." *Critical Inquiry* 15 (1989): 205-225.
11. Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. "Anthropology and the Savage Slot: the Poetics and Politics of Otherness." In *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, ed. Richard G. Fox. Santa Fe, New Mexico: School of American Research Press, 1991, pp. 17-44.
12. Blommaert, Jan. "Language, Asylum, and the National Order." *Current Anthropology* 50.4 (2009): 415-440.
13. Galeano, Eduardo. "Introduction." *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. Transl. Cedric Belfrage. [1971] New York: Monthly Review Press, 1997. pp. 1-8.
14. Ahmad, Aijaz. "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the 'National Allegory'." *Social Text* 17 (Spring, 1987): pp. 3-25.
15. Shohat, Ella. "Notes on the 'Post-Colonial'." *Social Text* 31/32 (1992): 99-113.
16. Dirlik, Arif. "The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism." *Critical Inquiry* 20.2 (Winter, 1994): 328-356.
17. Ong, Aihwa. "A Biocartography: Maids, Neoslavery, and NGOs." *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Durham: Duke UP, 2006: 195-217.
18. Moore, David Chioni. "Is the Post in Post-colonial the Post in Post-Soviet? Toward a Global Postcolonial Critique." *PMLA* 116.1 (January 2001): 111-128.
19. Khalid, Adeeb. "The Soviet Union as an Imperial Formation: A View from Central Asia," in *Imperial Formations*, ed. Ann Stoler, Carole McGranahan, and Peter Perdue. Santa Fe: School of Advanced Research P, 2007: 113-139.
20. Rudd, Kevin [as Prime Minister of Australia]. "Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples," 13 February 2008. [http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech\\_0073.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech_0073.cfm).
21. Obama, Barack. *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*. New York: Crown, 1995. Chapters 15 and 19, on Kenya: pp. 299-323, and 392-430.
22. Kiossev, Alexander. "The Self-Colonizing Metaphor." *Atlas of Transformation*, ed. Zybnek Baladran and Vit Havranek. Zurich: JRP Ringier/Tranzit, 2010. 567-575.
23. Halman, Talat Sait. "A Monologue on Indifference." *Dialogue and Difference*, ed. Laurence Raw and Ayse Lahur Kirtunc. London: The British Council, 1999. 3-14.