

## **SYA 4011**

### **POSTCOLONIAL THEORY**

Instructor: Professor Percy C. Hintzen  
LC 308  
[phintzen@fiu.edu](mailto:phintzen@fiu.edu)  
305-348-4419

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12.00 – 12.50 pm.

Place: Charles E. Perry (PC) 443

Office Hours: Monday 1.00 – 3.00 pm  
SIPA 330

#### **Course Description and Objectives**

The objective of the course is to provide advanced undergraduate students with an introduction to post-colonial theory, its concepts, problems, and debates. The course examines how contemporary global, regional, national, and subnational conditions are influenced and partly determined by the strong legacy of colonialism. The course will focus on theories that examine the relationship among history, society, politics, and economics. The problem posed by the course relates to the persistence of colonial forms after the formal dissolution of Europe's overseas empires during the latter half of the twentieth century, and particularly after 1947. Notwithstanding the granting of independence, the various campaigns of anti-colonial resistance and challenges at all levels to colonialism, Western influence continues to shape post-colonial formation through the use of economic, military, and political power and ideology.

The course will introduce students to discussions about the experiences of various historical and contemporary realities that form the complex of post-colonial thinking. It engages post-colonialism as a continuing process of reconstruction and resistance. It is impossible to examine the post-colonial without taking into account its antecedents and its consequences. And a significant portion of the course will deal with both. The course considers European colonialism as an "historical fact" that has produced diverse material effects everywhere. The imperial force of Europe continues to intrude everywhere, as does the legacy of colonialism in Europe and European settler societies. So post-colonial theory has universal global applications that the course will examine. The course will engage with theories of imperialism and neo-colonialism as aspects of post-colonial thinking.

The course will proceed through engagement with selected readings on colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, anti-colonialism, and post-colonialism. The field is an inter-disciplinary one that engages multiple analytical frameworks.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

3 Mid Term Examinations	30%
Summary Review Paper	25%
Final Examination	25%
Class Participation	10%
Reading Summaries	10%

## **Grade Assignments**

<b>A</b>	<b>100 - 93</b>
<b>A Minus</b>	<b>92.9 – 90</b>
<b>B Plus</b>	<b>89.9 – 87</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>86.9 – 83</b>
<b>B minus</b>	<b>82.9 – 80</b>
<b>C plus</b>	<b>79.9 – 77</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>76.9 - 70</b>
<b>D plus</b>	<b>69.9 - 67</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>66.9 – 63</b>
<b>D minus</b>	<b>62.9 - 60</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>59.0 - 00</b>

## **Grading Policy and Practice**

All assignments will be graded out of 100 and weighted according to their assigned value. No late assignment will be accepted nor make up exams graded without a valid excuse related to illness or personal and family emergency or for the accommodation of a religious holiday. Documentation must be presented.

## **Class Attendance**

Students are expected to be early for class and to attend every class unless their absence is excused because of personal illness, or personal and family emergency or for the accommodation of a religious holiday. Documentation must be provided for an excused absence.

After three (3) unexcused absences, one (1) point will be deducted for each subsequent absence up to a total of 10 percentage points. These deductions will show up on the marks for class participation.

## **Mid-Term**

There will be three mid-term examinations. Each exam will count for 10 percent of the grade. Two of the exams will be in-class essays that test familiarity with the reading and one will be a take home examination to test capacity for critical reflection,

## **Final Examination**

There will be a final examination covering the entire course.

## **Summary Review Paper**

**THIS IS YOUR ONLY PROMPT**  
**DUE APRIL 14th**

*Students will be required to write a not less than 6 page summary review paper (double spaced 12 font) focused on their understanding of the post-colonial condition. The purpose is to assess your comprehensive understanding of post-colonial theory, post-colonial practice, and post-colonial critique. You can choose a number of approaches:*

- 1. A "literature review of the readings covering what you think are the main points and making references to the authors who make them and who engage in critiques of those who make them. It has to be comprehensive.*
- 2. A case study (country, region, organization, etc.) to highlight critical issues covered in the reading and how the case elucidates or problematizes these issues.*
- 3. A theme from the readings that you explain, analyze and discuss thoroughly. You must make reference to other class readings that may be relevant to the theme.*

*In all three cases, the readings must be covered in a comprehensive way that is relevant to your approach to the paper.*

## **Reading Summaries**

Each student is required to post a two-paragraph synopsis of the week's readings on Blackboard by Wednesday midnight of each week. Each student is also required to post a critical question about the readings for class discussion. There will be a one percentage point deduction each time a student fails to submit a reading summary.

### **Class Participation**

Students will be expected to participate in class discussion. The basis for participation is attendance. Students who do not participate will be given the opportunity to do so by the instructor in the form of answers to questions specifically directed to them. Fridays are reserved for reviews and discussion of the week's readings. Questions for discussion will be selected from those posed by the students in the week's reading summaries.

### **Reading and Class Assignments**

A course-reader will be used that contains all the required readings. It must be purchased from RICOH in Graham Center

**January 9th.**

*I. Introduction to the Class*

*II. What is Postcolonialism?*

**January 11th**

#### **Reading**

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin.

**Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Routledge, 2007.

"Post-Colonialism/Postcolonialism." Pp. 168-173

"Post-Colonial Reading" Pp. 173-174.

"Post-Colonial State." Pp. 174-175.

"Postcolony." Pp. 175-178.

**January 13th**

**Class Discussion**

**January 16th**

**Martin Luther King Holiday**

**January 18th**

#### **Reading**

Robert C. Young. **Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction.** Blackwell, 2001.

Chapter 1. "Colonialism and the Politics of Postcolonial Critique". Pp. 1-11

Chapter 5. "Postcolonialism". Pp. 57-69.

**January 20th**

**Discussion**

**January 23rd**

#### **Reading:**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* Columbia University Press, 1994.

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman "Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: an Introduction" pp. 1-20

Ch. 8. Aijaz Ahmed. "Orientalism and After." Pp. 162-171.

**January 25th**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*  
Columbia University Press, 1994.

**Part Four:** Theorising Post-Coloniality: Intellectuals and Institutions:

“Introduction.” Pp. 271-275

Ch. 15. Vijay Mishra and Bob Hodge. “What is Post(-)colonialism?” Pp. 276-290

**January 27th**

**Discussion**

### *III. Colonialism and Resistance*

**January 30th**

**Reading**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*  
Columbia University Press, 1994. **Part One:** “Theorising Colonised Cultures and Anti-Colonial  
Resistance”

“Introduction.” Pp.23-26

Ch. 1. Leopold Sedar Senghor. “Negritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century”. Pp. 27-36.

Ch. 2. Franz Fanon. “On National Culture”. Pp. 36-52

**February 1st**

**Reading**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*  
Columbia University Press, 1994.

Ch. 3. Amilcar Cabral. “National Liberation and Culture”. Pp. 53-65

Ch. 5. Homi Bhabha. “Remembering Fanon: Self, Psyche, and the Colonial Condition.” Pp. 112-123.

**February 3rd**

**Class Discussion**

### *IV. Freedom Struggles.*

**February 6th**

**Reading**

Robert C. Young. **Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction.** Blackwell 2001.

Ch. 12. “The National Liberation Movements: Introduction”. Pp. 161-166

Ch. 13. “Marxism and the National Liberation Movements.” Pp. 167-181.

**February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading**

Robert C. Young. **Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction.** Blackwell, 2001.

Ch. 14. “China, Egypt, Bandung.” Pp. 183-192.

Ch. 18. “Africa II. Nkrumah and Pan-Africanism.” Pp. 236-252.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Class Discussion**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**First in Class Mid Term Exam. Please Bring a Blue Book**

### *V. The Postcolonial Problem*

**February 15th**

**Reading**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*  
Columbia University Press, 1994.

Ch. 16. Anne McClintock. “The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term ‘Post-colonialism’” pp. 291-304.

Ch. 18. Arjun Appadurai. “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy.” Pp. 324-339

**February 17th**  
**Class Discussion**

**February 20th**  
**Reading**

Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith. Eds. **The Case Against the Global Economy**. Sierra Club Books. 1996.

Chapter 34. Satish Kumar. “*Gandhi’s Swadeshi: The Economics of Permanence.*” Pp. 418-424.

Robert C. Young. **Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction**. Blackwell, 2001.

Ch. 23. “India II. Gandhi’s Counter-modernity.” Pp. 317-334.)

**VI. The Postcolonial Crisis**

**February 22nd**

**Reading**

Percy C. Hintzen. “After Modernization: Globalization and the African Dilemma” in **Modernization as Spectacle in Africa**. Edited by Peter J. Bloom, Stephan F.

Miescher, and Takyiwaa Manuh. Indiana University Press, 2014

**February 24th**  
**Class Discussion**

**Feb 27th**

**Reading**

Suzanne Bergeron. Ch. 2 “Mapping Modernization and Growth” in **Fragments of Development, Nation, Gender and the Space of Modernity**. Univ. of Michigan Press, 2006. Pp 30-67

**March 1st**

**Reading**

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. Eds. **Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader** Columbia University Press, 1994.

Ch. 9. Aime Cesaire. “From *Discourse on Colonialism*”. Pp. 172-180.

Ch. 10. Anthony Giddens. “From *The Consequences of Modernity.*” Pp. 181-189.

**March 3rd**

**Class Discussion**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading.**

Achille Mbembe. **On the Postcolony**. University of California Press, 2001

Ch. 1. “Of Commandment.” Pp. 24-65.

**March 10th**

**Reading** Rita Abrahamsen. Ch.5 “Whose Democracy” in **Disciplining Democracy: Development Discourse and Good Governance in Africa**. Zed. 2000. Pp. 86-111.

**March 11th**

**Class Discussion**

**MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)**

**March 20th**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mid Term Exan In Class.**

**Bring a Blue Book.**

**March 22nd**

Aihwa Ong, "Introduction: Neoliberalism as Exception, Exception to Neoliberalism" in **Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty**. Duke Univ. Press, 2006. Pp. 1- 27

**March 24th**  
**Class Discussion.**

**March 27<sup>h</sup>**

**Reading**

Aihwa Ong. **Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality**. Duke Univ. Press. 1999. Introduction. "Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality." Pp. 1-26.

**VII. Challenging Postcolonialism**

**March 29th**

**Reading**

Dipesh Chakrabarty. **Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference**. Princeton University Press. 2000.

Introduction: "The Idea of Provincializing Europe." Pp. 3-23.  
Ch. 1. "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History". Pp. 27-46.

**March 31st**

**Class Discussion**

**Take Home Examination Distributed in Class**

**April 3rd**

**Reading**

Andreas Hernandez, Ch 14: "Challenging Market and Religious Fundamentalisms: the emergence of "Ethics, Cosmovisions, Spiritualities" in The World Social Forum" in in **Contesting Development: Critical Struggles for Social Change**. Philip McMichael, 3d. Routledge, 2010 pp. 214-229

Philip McMichael and Karuna Morarji, Ch 15. "Development and its Dilemmas" in **Contesting Development: Critical Struggles for Social Change**. Philip McMichael, 3d. Routledge, 2010 . pp 233-241.

**April 5th**

**Reading**

Robert C. Young. **Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction**. Blackwell, 2001.  
Ch. 25. "Women, Gender and Anti-Colonialism". Pp. 360-382.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Class Discussion**

**Take Home Examination Due.**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading**

Sylvia Wynter, "The Pope Must Have Been Drunk, the King of Castille a Madman: Culture a Actuality, and the Caribbean Rethinking of Modernity" in **Caribbean Political Thought: Theories of the Post-Colonial State**. Aaron Kamugisha (ed) ,. Ian Randle Publishers 2013. pp 490-507

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading**

Chandra Talpade Mohanty.Ch 9 "Under Western Eyes" Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles" in **Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity**, Chandra Mohanty. Duke Univ. Press, 2004. Pp. 331-251

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Class Discussion**

**Final paper due**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading**

Amartya Sen. *Development as Freedom*. Anchor (Reprint Edition) 2000.

Introduction. "Development as Freedom" pp. 3 – 12

Ch. 12. "Individual Freedom as a Social Commitment" pp. 282-298

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Reading**

Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Chapter 6 Conclusion. Pp 212-226

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Class Discussion.**

**FINAL EXAM REVIEW**