

74800 LITERARY THEORY

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**V41.0735 Readings in Contemporary Literary Theory: Introduction to Postcolonial Studies** (*section 001*) This course, envisaged as an introduction to postcolonial studies, will identify and investigate some of the major topics addressed in this field: colonial discourse analysis; anti-colonial and oppositional discourses; the concepts of 'nation' and nationalism; the problematics of 'culture' in colonial and post-colonial contexts; questions of gender in relation to empire and nation; diaspora, cosmopolitanism and identity; the problems of decolonization and the post-colonial state; and the theoretical debates around the term 'postcolonialism'. We shall address these topics through a combination of literary and other kinds of texts, including some of the major anticolonial and postcolonial theoretical works by Fanon, Memmi, Said, Spivak, Bhabha and others.

Required books:

Gregory Castle, *Postcolonial Discourses: An Anthology* (Blackwell); Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Penguin); Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press); Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (Penguin or Heinemann); Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (Seal Press)

We will also be reading some other texts which are available online, including Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*, Tagore's *The Home and the World* and some short stories by Jean Rhys. I will also be showing a number of films in the class.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation 20%, Short papers 45%, Final 35%

The course will be run as a discussion seminar rather than a lecture class: students are expected to participate actively in each class throughout the semester. In addition to completing the assigned reading for class, each student will also be required to present a framing discussion of at least one of the assigned readings. Participants should highlight key features of the material and present to the class a series of questions that will develop class discussion.

Written requirement: four 4-5 page papers, due in the final class of each of the four semester sections; final.