

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3750	Course Title: Postcolonial Literature and Theory	Date of Offering: W18
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Course Instructor: E. Chang	
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Brief Course Synopsis: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

"Studies in the Literature, Politics and Thought of the Caribbean"

The term "postcolonial" designates a number of complex historical, linguistic, economic, social, and cultural relationships between the imperial powers and the regions of the world formerly or currently colonized by them. Whether the "post" can be said to refer to breaks with a colonial past (e.g., to the end or aftermath of empires) or to continuities of colonial rule (e.g., to relations of neo-colonialism, multinational capitalism, globalization, and/or dependency within world systems) has been and remains a focus of cultural production, critical inquiry, and debate.

This *reading-intensive* course engages some of the key concerns of postcolonial studies, and attempts to reflect both the range and the particularity of postcolonial cultural and critical practices by emphasizing works written from and about the Caribbean. Issues for investigation will include: relations of identity, difference, place and displacement; the aesthetics and politics of representation; decolonization and anti-colonial resistance; alternative and interventionist histories; critical and contextual studies of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender and sexuality.

All texts were written and/or published in the 20th or 21st century, yet the historical scope of the course is broad, encompassing very early moments in the conquest of the Americas, the San Dominguan (Haitian) Revolution of the 18th century, and the expansion of the British Empire in the 19th century. Many texts work creatively and critically to rewrite this history and the earlier literary representations that have reflected and refracted it. The course will offer strategies for understanding and intervening into such rich and complex cultural encounters, conflicts and transformations.

Course Format: Lecture	Methods of Evaluation and Weights: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE): 2 midterms (40%), comparison/contrast assignment (20%), final essay approx. 2000-2500 words (40%)
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Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Selected novels, plays, historical analyses and theoretical works *may* include: Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John*; Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*; Aimé Césaire, *Une tempête/A Tempest*; Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*; George Lamming, *The Emigrants*; C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins*; Edouard Glissant, *Monsieur Toussaint*; Dionne Brand, *What We All Long For*; writings by Jacqui Alexander, Homi Bhabha, Judith Williamson, Paul Gilroy, R. F. Retamar, Radhika Mohanram, George Lamming and/or Winston James.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

Fulfills **20th/21st Century requirement**, and **18th/19th Century requirement**—the latter because course material originates during, treats, and/or rewrites the experiences, history, and cultural production of the colonial world, even if written and/or published reflectively or many years after.

Content warning: Course materials treat, as they must, challenging and potentially unsettling topics such as slavery, apartheid, revolution, violence, poverty, and sexuality. Much of the assigned material for this course is densely theoretical. Thus lectures, discussions, and assignments that may be “difficult,” in at least two senses of the term, should be expected and accepted by any student who chooses to enrol and stay in this course.