University of California San Diego

Ethnic Studies

CULTURE, GLOBALISATION AND POWER
Spring Quarter 2007

Professor Pal Ahluwalia
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Course Outline:

This course seeks to understand the extraordinary reach of Western imperialism and
globalisation from the nineteenth century to the present. The course aims to
demonstrate how culture and imperialism are linked inextricably and how, knowingly
and unknowingly, they produce a system of domination which extends over the forms,
imagery and the very imaginations of both the colonised and the colonisers. It
recognises the fact that, coexistent with Western imperial power, is a strong resistance
to empire. Such resistance produces its own cultural impact. The course examines
the interdependence of culture and imperialism in order to understand today's post-
colonial world that remains entrapped in the globalising spread of imperialism.
Examples of the themes to be explored include: theorising colonised cultures and anti-
colonial resistance, theorising the West, theorising gender, theorising post-coloniality,
intellectuals and institutions as well as discourse and identity.

Aims:

• To consider the impact of Western imperialism and globalisation on the post-
colonial world.
• To consider how culture and imperialism are linked.
• To examine post-colonial strategies of resistance.
• To analyse the global/local nexus
• To evaluate key debates around post-colonial theory

LECTURES

Lectures will be given at 12.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in CSB 005

Discussion

Discussion is an integral and compulsory part of the course. It is a group activity and
is only successful if all members participate, attendance is compulsory. Each class
will have a lecture followed by a discussion period. A failure to attend without an
adequate explanation or the failure to prepare for the discussion will significantly
affect your final grade.

Course Texts:

2.


All course required course readings (the A readings) are available on E-reserve. The B readings are listed to assist you in the writing of your research papers and you will be responsible for finding them.

**Course Requirements**

You are expected to attend classes, complete the required reading for each session, prepare for the set tasks, and participate fully in group discussions. The forms of assessment are listed below and papers must be submitted by the required deadline: *late papers will not be accepted*.

**Assessment**

All assignments constitute *individual tasks*. Submitted papers must not include work completed by another person (of course, unless cited and referenced as a published source). All papers must include citation, quotation, and full bibliographic references. Papers should be double-spaced and checked for spelling and typographical errors prior to submission.

**Attendance & Class Participation** 20%

1. Midterm Paper (4-6 pages) 30%

Write a paper in response to one of the following essay titles:

1. How does Said use the terms culture and imperialism? What are the theoretical underpinnings of his position?

2. Critically assess Said's ideas in *Culture and Imperialism* and discuss their contemporary relevance.

3. Critically discuss Said’s notion of contrapuntal reading.

4. What are the implications of globalisation on local identity?

5. Is globalisation a new form of colonization?

6. Critically discuss Appadurai’s theory of globalisation with reference to his ideas of scapes.

7. Critically discuss Foucault's conception of power and normalisation.

8. Is Foucault’s notion of governmentality useful in understanding colonial rule?

9. Critically examine and discuss Foucault's approach to power as illuminating the nature of cultural domination.

Your papers should address the specific essay title chosen which must be typed on the cover page of your paper.
3.

Submission Date: **Tuesday, 1 May 2007.** Turn your paper in *either* to the instructor in class on or before this date *or* to the Ethnic Studies Department Office (Social Sciences Building, Room 201) by **4.00 pm** on this date.

3. Final Paper (8-10 pages)  

**50%**

Write a paper in response to *one* of the following essay titles:

1. Is Said's use of Foucault and Gramsci sustainable in *Orientalism*.

2. Why did Said’s *Orientalism* have such a dramatic impact on post-colonial studies?

3. Critically discuss Said's Orientalism. In particular focus on criticism of his work.

4. Critically discuss the impact of post-structuralism and post-modernism on post-colonialism?

5. How has Fanon influenced the work of contemporary post-colonial theorists such as Edward Said?

6. What is the place of national and nationalist culture in relation to political liberation?

7. Critically discuss the role of intellectuals within the post-colonial context.

8. Discuss the relationship between globalisation and post-colonialism.

9. Has Western feminism marginalised colonised women in order to consolidate itself?

10. Discuss the tensions between white feminism and colonised "other" feminisms with reference to Mohanty's work.


Your papers should address the specific essay title chosen which *must* be typed on the cover page of your paper.

**Submission Date / Time / Place**

**Thursday, June 14 2007, Ethnic Studies Department Office (Social Sciences Building, Room 201)**

*This is based on the provisional examination timetable. The final submission date, time, and place is to be confirmed. You will be notified in class and by email via Studentlink.*

**Statement on Interaction**

It is crucial that we develop a mutually respectful classroom environment in order to explore the sensitive issues that we will encounter on the course. I suggest that you read the statement of UCSD Principles of Community that can be found at: http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm
Lecture Schedule

Tuesday 3 April Orientation Lecture
Thursday 5 April Culture, Globalisation and Imperialism I
Tuesday 10 April Culture, Globalisation and Imperialism II
Thursday 12 April August Globalisation and Power I
Tuesday 17 April Globalisation and Power II
Thursday 19 April Foucault: Power and Normalisation
Tuesday 24 April Orientalism and Hegemony I
Thursday 26 April Orientalism and Hegemony II
Tuesday 1 May Orientalism and its critics
Thursday 3 May Fanon and Colonial Culture I
Tuesday 8 May Fanon and Colonial Culture II
Thursday 10 May August Post-Colonial Elaborations I
Tuesday 15 May Post-Modernism and Australia I
Thursday 17 May Post-Modernism and Australia II
Tuesday 22 May Globalisation and the Post-colonial world I
Thursday 24 May Globalisation and the Post-colonial world II
Tuesday 29 May Gender, Power and Culture I
Thursday 31 May Gender, Power and Culture II
Tuesday 5 June Representations of the Intellectual
Thursday 7 June Culture, Globalisation Imperialism and the Future

Discussion Topics

Week One: Introductory Week/ (3 April)
Week Two: Culture and Imperialism (10 April)
Week Three: Globalisation, Culture and Power (17 April)
Week Four: Foucault: Power and Normalisation (24 April)
Week Five: Orientalism and Hegemony (1 May August)
Week Six: Culture and Intellectuals: Frantz Fanon (8 May)
Week Seven: Post-Colonial Elaborations I (15 May)
Week Eight: Gender, Power and Culture (22 May)
Week Nine: Representations of the Intellectual (29 May)
Week Ten: Post-colonial Futures (5 June)

A Note on Sources

This course deals with relatively recent and contemporary themes and theoretical materials. There is a wealth of material in the library on all the topics, especially in current periodicals and journals. The reading lists here are not intended to be definitive. They provide suggestions of where to look for relevant information and arguments. You will need to develop your working knowledge of the library and to make use of its journal holdings.

CLASS TOPIC / DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

1. ORGANISATION AND INTRODUCTORY WEEK (3 April)

2. CULTURE AND IMPERIALISM (10 April)

A READINGS


B. READINGS


### 3. GLOBALISATION, CULTURE AND POWER (17 April)

#### A. READINGS


#### B. READINGS


Kevin R. Cox, (ed.), *Spaces of globalization: reasserting the power of the local*, (New York: Guilford Press 1997).


4. FOUCAULT: POWER AND NORMALISATION (24 April)

A. READINGS


B. READINGS


Hubert L. Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow; with an afterword by Michel Foucault, *Michel Foucault: beyond structuralism and hermeneutics*, (Brighton: Harvester, 1982).


5. ORIENTALISM AND HEGEMONY (1 May)

A. READINGS


B. READINGS


6. FRANTZ FANON (8 May)

A. READINGS


B. READINGS

Adam Hussein, "Frantz Fanon as a Democratic Theorist", African Affairs, vol.92, 1993, pp.419-518.


Fanon Frantz, A Dying Colonialism, (New York, Grove Press, 1965).


Fanon Frantz, The Wretched of the Earth, (Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1967).


Fuss Diani, "Interior Colonies: Frantz Fanon and the Politics of Identification", Diacritics, Summer/Fall, 1994, pp.20-42.


7. POST-COLONIAL ELABORATIONS I (15 May)

A. READINGS


B. READINGS


Francis Barker, Peter Hulme, and Margaret Iversen, (eds.), *Colonial discourse, postcolonial theory*, (New York: Manchester University Press, 1994).


Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Devil on the cross* translated from the Gikuyu by the author. (London, Heinemann, 1982).

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *I will marry when I want*, (London ; Exter, N.M, Heinemann, 1982).


During Simon, "Postmodernism or postcolonialism", *Textual Practice*, 1, 1, Spring 1987, pp.32-47.


8. GENDER AND CULTURE (22 May)
A. READINGS


B. READINGS


Emberley, Julia, *Thresholds of difference : feminist critique, native women's writings, postcolonial theory*, (Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1993).


Zoonen, Liesbet van, Feminist media studies, (London, Sage, 1994).

9. REPRESENTATIONS OF THE INTELLECTUAL (29 May)
A. READINGS

B. READINGS
10. POST-COLONIAL FUTURES (5 June)

A. READINGS


B. READINGS


Wolfgang Klooss, (ed), *Across the lines: intertextuality and transcultural communication in the new literatures in English*, (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1998).


Raymond Corbey, *Tribal art traffic: a chronicle of taste, trade and desire in colonial and post-colonial times*, (Amsterdam: Royal Tropical Institute, 2000).

