

**Département d'études françaises**  
**Western University**  
**Cours: *Fre 2141A – Automne 2022***

**Prof. Henri Boyi**

**Office:** *University College # 2122*  
**Office hours:** *Monday, 1:30-2 :30pm*  
*Wednesday, 2 :30-3 :30pm or by appointment*

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**Decolonization in the Francophone World: Past and Present**

**Course description:**

This course, *Decolonization in the Francophone World: Past and Present*, will examine the structural processes behind decolonization and important historical issues in the Francophone world. Aiming to broaden our perspectives on global contexts of de/post/colonization, we will draw on a wide variety of mediums such as history, literature, politics, critical theory, the Negritude movement, films, documentaries, and podcasts. Theoretical debates may be analysed through the critical writings of Aimé Césaire, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, Malinda Smith, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Marie Battiste, Achile Mbembe, and others.

While we concentrate on the Francophone communities and nations, Africa, the Maghreb and the Antilles in particular, relevant material from other parts of the world may be used and examined to reflect on central topics such as Colonialism, Decolonization, Eurocentrism, Orientalism, the African philosophy of *Ubuntu*, the International Organisation of La Francophonie, France-Afrique, and the new concept of Afrique-France. We will evaluate contemporary socio-cultural and political issues to further our understanding of the relationship between France and its former colonies.

As for the methodology, the course will be based on critical discussion of some of the material, case study, research on special topics, and oral presentations.

*Note from the instructor:*

*Some of the language used in the texts or in the movies may be shocking to some people. I urge you to take that with a grain of salt and remember to keep the words in their contexts considering the time and space in which they were used.*

### **Course material:**

-A course book for the course is available in the University bookstore (Book No. M12191)

-More material may be available on OWL

### **Assessment:**

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|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Test:              | 20% |
| 2. Oral presentation: | 20% |
| 3. Participation:     | 20% |
| 4. Final project:     | 40% |

#### **\*Test:**

There will be one comprehensive 60-minute test which will include the material that we will have covered for the course by then.

#### **\*Oral Presentations:**

Individual presentations will take about 20 minutes and 30 minutes for a group of 2 students. These presentations will be based on our readings for the course and on other material related to issues and items relevant to the course.

The presentation topic will have to be approved by the instructor.

The presenter will:

- highlight the main points of the topic providing information and clarification where necessary,
- add a critical discussion on some of those main points,
- and prepare two or three discussion questions that are relevant to the topic for class discussion.

Please feel free to ask questions as you prepare your presentation.

#### **\*Participation:**

This component of the course includes class attendance and active participation in class activities by doing assignments and engaging in discussions.

You will be asked to write a 200-word commentary on three of the movies and documentaries on the syllabus and then post your commentary in *Forums* on OWL.

*Each non-justified absence to class will make you loose 10% of the participation mark.*

#### **\*Final Project:**

There will be no final exam for this course. The final project will be due a week before the end of classes in April. This work will be based on a 3000-word essay on a research topic related to one or more of important issues that will have been discussed in the course.

Instructions about the topic will be formulated and announced later.

### Course Policy:

There will have to be full respect for everyone in the class (See UWO Students' Code of Conduct)

### Weekly Plan:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lessons (TB=Textbook)</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; Evaluation</b>
<b>14 sept.</b>	Course Introduction Aimé Césaire, Negritude and his work on colonialism	Watch the film: 'The Battle of Algiers' <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRE3j8pDMds">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRE3j8pDMds</a>
<b>21 sept.</b>	Discussion on 'The Battle of Algiers' Revisiting Frantz Fanon and his essay 'On Violence'	Reading: 'Discourse on colonialism' (TB)
<b>28 sept.</b>	Decolonizing Libraries Highlights on Decolonization *Guest lectures: -Jason Dyck -Dr.Chinelo Ezanwa -Dr. Jason SAndhar	For Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> , watch the 9-minute movie: <a href="https://twitter.com/BirdgirlUK/status/1550428674960261121">https://twitter.com/BirdgirlUK/status/1550428674960261121</a> Watch also: Africa 1960: Four faces of Independence from France: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4JH6JPoljI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4JH6JPoljI</a>
<b>05 oct.</b>	The French colonial system *Guest lectures on De/colonization: -Dr. Yolanda Hedberg -Dr. Nandi Bhatia	Watch the Film Lumumba <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wkQnxbNfnM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wkQnxbNfnM</a>
<b>10 oct.</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
<b>12 oct.</b>	Discussion on Lumumba Africa 1960s: The four Figures of Independence	Readings: -Mbembe's 'The Long French Imperial Winter'
<b>19 oct.</b>	Francophonie; France-Africa	Watch documentary: 'Toussaint Louverture' <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBdlwuEoCCU&amp;t=690s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBdlwuEoCCU&amp;t=690s</a>

<b>26 oct.</b>	'Discussion on Toussaint Louverture' Haïti and the Antilles	
	<b>Test</b>	
<b>31 oct – 04 nov.</b>	<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	
<b>09 nov.</b>	France in the Sahel	Documentary: Thomas Sankara <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7Vlt41HPUE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7Vlt41HPUE</a>
<b>16 nov.</b>	Thomas Sankara: a new era	Reading Albert Memmi: 'The Two answers of the colonized'  Watch video: Macron meet anger African Youth, respond to CFA Franc, France military in Africa Questions <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r682D2SUIal">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r682D2SUIal</a>
<b>23 nov.</b>	Africa-France summit	
<b>07 déc</b>	<b>VARIA</b>	
<b>BONNE CHANCE AUX EXAMENS ET HEUREUSE ANNÉE 2022!</b>		

### Readings

Césaire, A. (1972). "Discourse on Colonialism" (pp. 31-53), in *Discourse on Colonialism*. Trans. Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Wa Thiong'o, N. (1992). "The language of African" (pp. 4-33), in *Decolonising the mind: The politics of language in African literature*. Literature. East African Publishers.

Fanon, F. (2004). "On Violence" (pp. 1-43), in *The wretched of the earth*. Grove Press.

Memmi, A. (2000). "The Philosophy of Racism" (pp. 125-165), in *Racism*. U of Minnesota Press.

Memmi, A. (1991). "The two answers of the colonized" (pp. 119-141), in *The Colonizer and the Colonized*. Beacon Press.

### Films and documentaries

Peck, R. (Director). (2000). *Lumumba*. [Film; documentary]. JBA Production.

Pontecorvo, G. (Director). (1966). *The Battle of Algiers* [Film; documentary]. Turner Classic Movies.

Shuffield, R. (Director). (2006). *Thomas Sankara: The Upright Man* . [Film; documentary]. ZORN Production.

Spottiswoode, R (Director). (2007). *Shake Hands with the Devil*. [Film; documentary].

TED. (2009). The danger of a single story: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg>