

Western University, London Canada

**Reading India**  
**Fall 2015: English 9135A**

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“Where do we locate postcoloniality—in the spaces between and across cultures and traditions or in national states, which, in spite of a certain crisis of legitimacy, still continue to demand affiliation from their citizens and subjects?” asks Simon Gikandi in a critical article on the relationship between globalization and postcoloniality. To address this and related questions, questions that have acquired urgency in the wake of cultural and literary global formations that celebrate cultural flows while simultaneously highlighting ongoing economic and political disparities, this course will cover literary-cultural texts from and about India. Approached from gendered, national, transnational and class perspectives, the readings will entail an examination of historical, colonial, postcolonial, institutional and linguistic contexts that frame the texts and speak to the ruptures, crossovers and influences that have resulted from Britain’s longstanding engagement with India since the transfer of power from the East India Company rule to the British Crown in 1858 until independence-Partition in 1947. To this end, this course will investigate major topics in postcolonial theory - such as Orientalism, subalternity, mimicry, exile, home, community, nation, and diaspora - and assess the scope and relevance of these topics for understanding the links between literary-cultural engagements, postcoloniality, and narratives of globalization.

**Texts**

E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*  
Kipling, “The Man Who would be King”  
Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*  
Kumar, “Listen Shefali”  
V.S. Naipaul, *The Mimic Men*  
Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*  
Hanif Kureishi, *Borderline*  
Sharon Pollock, *The Komagata Maru Incident*  
Anita Rau Badami, *Can You Hear the Nighbird Call?* (need desk copy)

**Films:**

*Shakespeare Wallah*  
*Continuous Journey*

**Articles available in the Graduate Office**

**Requirements and Assignments:**

- 1) Consistent and vigorous participation in class (20%)
- 2) Class Presentation. Each student will give a short presentation on an aspect of the readings assigned for the day. Based on the presentation, the student will submit an essay (5 pages double-spaced) the following week. (30%)
- 3) Research Essay (20 pages). Your aim should be to work towards presenting the paper at a conference. (50%)

**Statement on Academic Offences**

The statement: "Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

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Week 1 Sept 16	Edward Said on Orientalism (Videorecording)
Week 2 Sept 23	Slemon, "Post-Colonial Critical Theories" <b>[Grad office]</b> Childs and Williams, "Introduction: Points of Departure" <b>[Grad office]</b> Said, "From <i>Orientalism</i> " <b>[Grad office]</b> Ahmad, "Between Orientalism and Historicism" <b>[Grad office]</b> Kipling, "The Man Who Would be King" <b>[Grad office]</b>
Week 3 Sept 30	Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i> Sharpe, "The Unspeakable Limits of Rape" <b>[Grad office]</b>
Week 4 Oct 7	Guha, "Preface" and "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India," <b>[Grad Office]</b> Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i> , 5-12, 26-74, 79-119 Hardiman, "Introduction: The Gandhian Dialogic" 1-11, "An Alternative Modernity," 66-72; "Dalit and Adivasi Assertion" 123-136 <b>[Grad office]</b> Vinay Lal, "Gandhi's West, the West's Gandhi" <b>[Grad office]</b> Kumar, "Listen Shefali" <b>[Grad office]</b>
Week 5 Oct 14	<i>Stories my Country Told Me</i> with Eqbal Ahmed (Videorecording) Butalia "Community, State and Gender: On Women's Agency During Partition." <b>[Grad office]</b> Menon and Bhasin, "Recovery, Rupture, Resistance: Indian State and Abduction of Women during Partition" <b>[Grad office]</b> Sidhwa, <i>Cracking India</i>

Week 6 Oct 21	Mukherjee, "The Anxiety of Indianness" <b>[Grad office]</b> Adiga, <i>The White Tiger</i>
Week 7 Oct 28	Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" <b>[Grad office]</b> Vishwanathan, "The Beginnings of English Literary Study in British India" <b>[Grad Office]</b> Singh, "Shakespeare and the 'Civilizing Mission'" <b>[Grad office]</b> Trivedi, "Introduction," <b>[Grad office]</b> Screen <i>Shakespeare Wallah</i>
Week 8 Nov 4	Discussion of <i>Shakespeare Wallah</i>
Week 9 Nov 11	Mishra, "The Diasporic Imaginary: Theorizing the Indian Diaspora" <b>[Grad office]</b> Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse" <b>[Grad office]</b> Naipaul, <i>The Mimic Men</i>
Week 10 Nov 18	Brah, "Diaspora, Border and Transnational Identities" <b>[Grad office]</b> Lahiri, "South Asians in post-imperial Britain: decolonisation and imperial legacy" <b>[Grad office]</b> Rushdie, "The New Empire within Britain" <b>[Grad office]</b> Spivak, "Diasporas Old and New" <b>[Grad office]</b> Kureishi, <i>Borderline</i> <b>[Grad Office]</b>
Week 11 Nov 25	<b>Screen</b> <i>Continuous Journey</i>
Week 12 Dec 2	<i>Can you hear the nightbird call?</i> Pollock, <i>The Komagata Maru Incident</i> Kelly, "'This is not where we live': The Production of National Citizenship and Borderlines in Sharon Pollock's <i>The Komagata Maru Incident</i> " <b>[Grad Office]</b>
Week 13 Dec 9	Gikandi, "Globalization and the Claims of Postcoloniality" <b>[Grad Office]</b>