

Western University, London Canada

Ruptures and Crossovers: Postcolonial Literature and Theory

9198B; Winter 2022; Half Course

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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 studying literary and cultural texts from India, Africa and the Caribbean. Approached from the perspectives of race, gender, class, the readings will entail an examination of the legacies of European colonialism, the diverse geographies of migration, and the politics of English as represented in literary texts. Such an approach will necessitate an exploration of the links between what Edward Said calls “culture and imperialism” and address how literary and cultural texts speak to the ruptures, crossovers and influences that have resulted from Britain’s longstanding engagement with its colonies.

TEXTS (BOOKSTORE)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
Tsitsi Dengarembka, *Nervous Conditions*
Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*
V. S. Naipaul, *The Mimic Men*
Ngugi wa Thiongo, *Decolonising the Mind*

ARTICLES (AVAILABLE ON OWL)

Requirements and Assignments:

- 1) Consistent participation in class (15%)
- 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. (20%)
- 3) Annotated Bibliography: At the end of 4 weeks, students will have 2 weeks to prepare an annotated bibliography of approximately 10 sources related to the course. Based on this research, students are expected to come up with a tentative title and short proposal (1 paragraph) for the final essay (15%).
- 4) Research Essay (20 pages). Your aim should be to work towards presenting the essay at a conference. (50%)

Statement on Academic Offences

“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

website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Graduate Course Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.