WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PhD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9919 (SF)/ 9939 (PF)

POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Postcolonial Literature, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

1. Instructions

i. Secondary Field Exam

Students are responsible for all the titles on the CORE reading list.

ii. Primary Field Exam

Students are responsible for all the titles on the CORE reading list. In addition to the Core reading list, there are two SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS: Part One and Part Two. Students must select 15 texts from Part One and 15 texts from Part Two of the SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS.

2. Exam Structure

i. This examination is divided into three parts: Part A: Poetry and Drama; Part B: Prose; Part C: General Question. Answer ONE (1) question from each of the THREE Parts.

ii. All questions are of equal value. Students should not write extensively on one author more than once.

iii. Make sure that your exam as a whole deals with writers who constitute a balanced representation of countries and regions.
CORE TEXTS

Africa
Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
Ngugi wa Thiong’o: *Petals of Blood*
Tsitsi Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions*
J. M. Coetzee: *Disgrace*
Chistopher Okigbo: *Heavensgate*
Stella Chipasula, Frank Chipasula, eds.: *Heineman Book of African Women’s Poetry*
Okot Bitek: *Song of Lawino*
Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King’s Horseman.*
Ama ata Aidoo: *Dilemma of a Ghost; Anowa*
Zakes Mda: *We Shall Sing for the Fatherland and Other Plays*

Caribbean
Derek Walcott: *Omeros; Ti-Jean and His Brothers*
Kamau Braithwaite: *The Arrivants*
Grace Nichols: *I is a Long Memoried Woman*
Marlene Nourbese Phillip: *Zong!*
David Dabydeen: *Turner*
Edouard Glissant: *Monsieur Toussaint: A Play*
Aimé Césaire: *A Tempest: Based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest’; Adaptation for a Black Theatre*
Honor Ford-Smith: *Three Jamaican Plays: A Postcolonial Anthology*
Edwidge Danticat: *The Farming of Bones*
V. S. Naipual: *The Mimic Men*
Jamaica Kincaid: *Annie John*
George Lamming: *In the Castle of My Skin*
Lakshmi Persaud: *Butterfly in the Wind*
Earl Lovelace: *Salt*
Erna Brodber: *Myal*
Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific
Vivienne Cleven: *Bitin’ Back*
David Malouf: *Remembering Babylon*
Mudrooroo Narogin (Colin Johnson): *Doctor Wooreddy's Prescription for Enduring the Ending of the World*
Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker): *We Are Going*
Roberta (Bobbi) Sykes: *Love Poems and Other Revolutionary Actions*
Alexis Wright: *Carpentaria*
Allen Curnow: *Early Days Yet: New and Collected Poems, 1941-1997*
Keri Hulme: *The Bone People*
Patricia Grace: *Potiki*
Katherine Mansfield: “The Daughter’s of the Late Colonel” or “The Doll’s House”
South Asia
Mulk Raj Anand: Untouchable; Coolie
Anita Desai: Clear Light of Day
Nissim Ezekiel: The Three Plays; Latter Day Psalms
R.K. Narayan: The Guide; Under the Banyan Tree and Other Stories
Salman Rushdie: Midnight’s Children; The Satanic Verses
Bapsi Sidhwa: Cracking India
Rabindranath Tagore: The Home and the World
Omprakash Valmiki: Joothan: A Dalit’s Life
Rabindranath Tagore: The Home and the World
Shyam Selvadurai: Funny Boy
Amitav Ghosh: Sea of Poppies

Indigenous Literatures of Canada and the United States
Marilyn Dumont: A Really Good Brown Girl
Louise Erdrich: Tracks
Tomson Highway: Kiss of the Fur Queen and The Rez Sisters
Thomas King: Green Grass, Running Water; Truth and Bright Water
N. Scott Momaday: House of Made of Dawn
Eden Robinson: Monkey Beach
Leslie Marmon Silko: Ceremony
Simon Ortiz: From Sand Creek: Rising in this Heart Which is our America

Theory
Albert Memmi: The Colonizer and the Colonized
Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Masks, The Wretched of the Earth
Edward Said: Orientalism; Culture and Imperialism (chapters 1 and 3)
Homi K. Bhabha: The Location of Culture
Robert Young: White Mythologies: Writing History and the West; “Colonialism and the Desiring Machine”
Elleke Boehmer: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o: Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature
Achille Mbembe: “Necropolitics,” “Provisional Notes on the Postcolony.”
Edward Braithwaite: The History of the Voice
Antonio Benitez-Rojo: The Repeating Island (Part 1 and Introduction)
Aimé Césaire: Discourse on Colonialism
Julia Emberley: Defamiliarizing the Aboriginal: Cultural Practices and Decolonization in Canada
Helen Gilbert and Joanne Tompkins: Post-Colonial Drama: Theory, Practice, Politics
Paul Gilroy, The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double-Consciousness
Avtar Brah: Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities
SPECIALIZATION OPTIONS

PART ONE: Literature Organized According to World Regions

Africa

i. Southern and South Central Africa
J.M. Coetzee (Foe; Waiting for the Barbarians); Nadine Gordimer (The Conservationist; July’s People); Bessie Head (A Question of Power); Peter Abrahams (Mine Boy); Andre Brink; Breyten Breytenbach; Shimmer Chinodya; K. Sello Duiker; Farida Karodia; Antjie Krog (Country of My Skull); Mazisi Kunene; Ellen Kuzwayo; Athol Fugard (Tsotsi; Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act); Alex La Guma; Chenjerai Hove; Sindiwa Magona; Jack Mapanje; Dambudzo Marechera; Es’kia Mphahlele; Zakes Mda; Lauretta Ngcobo; Njabulo Ndebele; David Rubadiri; Olive Schreiner (The Story of An African Farm); Mazisi Kunene (Emperor Shaka the Great: A Zulu Epic); Jane Taylor (Ubu and the Truth Commission).

ii. West and East Africa
Amos Tutuola (Nigeria) (My Life in the Bush of Ghosts); Ayi Kwei Armah (Ghana) (The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born); Kofi Awoonor (Ghana); Syl Cheney-Coker (Sierra Leone); Buchi Emecheta (Nigeria) (The Bride Price; The Slave Girl); Nuruddin Farah (Somalia) (Maps); Meja Mwangi (Kenya); Flora Nwapa (Kenya); Christopher Okigbo (Nigeria); Ben Okri (Nigeria) (The Famished Road); Okot p’Bitek; M.G. Vassanji (Tanzania/Canada) (The Book of Secrets)

Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific

i. Australia
Judith Wright (Selected Poems); Ruby Langford Ginibi (Don’t Take Your Love to Town); Sally Morgan (My Place); Alexis Wright (Carpentaria); John Muk Muk Burke (Night Song and Other Poems; Bridge of Triangles); Peter Carey (True History of the Kelly Gang); Jessica Anderson; Thea Astley; Murray Bail; Rolf Boldrewood; Martin Boyd; Marion Campbell; Marcus Clarke; Anna Couani; Eleanor Dark; Jack Davis; David Foster; Miles Franklin; Joseph Furphy; Helen Garner; Kevin Gilbert; Rodney Hall; Kate Grenville (The Secret River); Gwen Harwood; Xavier Herbert; Dorothy Hewitt; David Ireland; Gail Jones (Sorry); Elizabeth Jolley; Thomas Keneally; Henry Lawson; Andrew McGahan (The White Earth); Frank Moorehouse; Sally Morgan; Gerald Murnane; Louis Nowra; Doris Pilkington (Rabbit Proof Fence); Hal Porter; Peter Porter; Katharine Susannah Prichard (Coonardoo); Henry Handel Richardson; Catherine Helen Spence; Christina Stead; David Williamson; Francis Webb; Archie Weller; Michael Wilding; Tim Winton; Fay Zwicky
ii. New Zealand and the South Pacific

Alan Duff (*Once Were Warriors*); Witi Ihimaera (*The Whale Rider*); Roma Potiki (*Going Home*); Albert Wendt (Samoa/NZ) (*Leaves of the Banyan Tree*); James K. Baxter; Arapera Blank; Jean Devanny; Maurice Duggan; Vincent Eri (PNG) (*The Crocodile*); Sia Figiel (*Where We Once Belonged*); Janet Frame (*The Carpentians*); Maurice Gee; Epeli Hau'ofa (Tonga); Robin Hyde; John Kasiaiwalova (PNG); John Kolia (PNG); Fiona Kidman; Rachel McAlpine; Bill Manhire; John Mulgan; Satendra Nandoo (Fiji); Frank Sargeson; Maurice Shadbolt; C.K. Stead (*Mansfield: A Novel*); JC Sturm (*The House of the Talking Cat*); Konai Helu Thaman (Tonga); Honi Tuwhare (*Deep River Talk: Collected Poems*); Ian Wedde.

Note: Students may also choose selected readings from the following anthologies:


Caribbean

Kamau Brathwaite (Barbados) (*Born to Slow Horses; X/Self*); Wilson Harris (Guyana/UK) (*The Palace of the Peacock; The Ghost of Memory*); Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua/USA) (*Annie John; A Small Place*); George Lamming (Barbados) (*In the Castle of My Skin; Natives of My Person*); V.S. Naipaul (Trinidad/UK) (*The Mimic Men; A House for Mr. Biswas*); Derek Walcott (St Lucia/US) (*Selected Poems; Omeros; Ti-Jean and His Brothers*); Jean Rhys (Dominica/UK) (*Wide Sargasso Sea*); Phyllis Shand Allfrey (Dominica) (*The Orchid House*); Jean Binta Breeze (Jamaica) (*Ryddim Ravings; Third World Girl*); Dionne Brand (Trinidad/Canada) (*Land to Light On; What We All Long For*); Erna Brodber (Jamaica) (*Myal; Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home*); Austin Clarke (Barbados/Canada) (*Choosing His Coffin: The Best Stories of Austin Clarke; The Origin of Waves; The Polished Hoe*); Michelle Cliff (Jamaica/US) (*Abeng; No Telephone to Heaven*); David Dabydeen (Guyana/UK) (*Turner: New and Selected Poems; Slave Song*); Fred D’Aguiar (Guyana/UK) (*Continental Shelf*); Zee Edgell (Belize) (*Beka Lamb*); Beryl Gilroy (Guyana) (*Frangipani House*); Lorna Goodison (Jamaica/Canada) (*I am Becoming My Mother*); Claire Harris (Trinidad/Canada) (*Fables from the Women’s Quarters*); Merle Hodge (Trinidad) (*Crick, Crack, Monkey*); C.L.R. James (Trinidad) (*Toussaint L’Ouverture*); Earl Lovelace (Trinidad) (*Salt*); Ian McDonald (Guyana) (*The Humming-Bird Tree*); Roger Mais (Jamaica) (*Brother Man*); Pauline Melville (Guyana/UK) (*The Ventriloquist's Tale*); Edgar Mittelholzer (Guyana/UK) (*Corenthyne Thunder; A Morning at the Office*); Grace Nichols (Guyana/UK) (*I is A Long Memoried Woman*); Caryl Phillips (St.Kitts/UK) (*Crossing the River; A Distant Shore*); Marlene Nourbese Philip (Trinidad/Canada) (*She Tries Her Tongue; Zong!*); V.C. Reid (Jamaica) (*New Day; The Leopard*); Jean Rhys (Dominica/UK) (*Wide Sargasso Sea*); Olive Senior (Jamaica/Canada); Sam Selvon (Trinidad/UK/Canada) (*The Lonely Londoners*); Sylvia Wynter (Jamaica) (*The Hills of Hebron*); Aida Cartagena Portalatin (*Poema Documento-Document Poem*); Julia Alvarez (*In the Time of Butterflies*); Rosario Ferre (*Sweet Diamond Dust*).
Other Stories); Patrick Chamoiseau (Texaco); Patricia Powell (Pagoda); Aime Cesaire (Notebooks of A Return to the Homeland); Trevor Rhone (Jamaica) (Old Story Time; Two Can Play); Errol John (Trinidad) (Moon on a Rainbow Shawl); Errol Hill (Trinidad) (Man Better Man);

Note: Students may also choose selected readings from the following anthologies:


South Asia

G.V. Desani; Shashi Despande; Mahasweta Devi (Imaginary Maps); Amitav Ghosh (Sea of Poppies; In An Antique Land); Zulfikar Ghose; Yasmine Gooneratne; Hanif Kureishi; Rohinton Mistry (A Fine Balance; Such a Long Journey); Suniti Namjoshi; Raja Rao; Nayantara Sahgal; Sara Suleri (Meatless Days); A.K. Ramanujan; Arundhati Roy (The God of Small Things); I. Allan Sealy; Vikram Seth; Shashi Tharoor.

Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines

Ee Tian Hong; Goh Poh Seng; Lloyd Fernando; Shirley Geok-Lin Lim; Nick Joaquin; K.S. Maniam; Timothy Mo; Kirpal Singh; Edwin Thumboo; Beth Yahp, Arthur Yap

Ireland

Eaven Boland (Collected Poems; In a Time of Violence); Brian Friel (Dancing at Lughnasa; The Freedom of the City; Translations); Seamus Heaney (Collected Poems; North); James Joyce (Dubliners; “The Home Rule Comet”; “The Dead”); Bernard MacLaverty (Cal); Patrick McCabe (Emerald Germs of Ireland); Paul Muldoon (New Selected Poems, 1968-1994); Tom Murphy (A Whistle in the Dark); Flann O’Brien (The Third Policeman); Liam O’Flaherty (The Informer); Jonathan Swift (“A Modest Proposal”; Gulliver’s Travels); John Millington Synge (Playboy of the Western World); William Trevor (Fools of Fortune); Y.B. Yeats (Collected Poems)

Indigenous Literatures of Canada and the United States

* Please note that Indigenous writers of the Australian, Maori, and South Pacific region are included under the Australian and New Zealand/South Pacific Categories. Candidates are welcome to include Indigenous authors from other regions upon approval of the committee.

Paula Gunn Allen (Life is a Fatal Disease: Collected Poems, 1962-1995); Sherman Alexie (The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven; Indian Killers); Jeannette Armstrong (Slash; Breath
Tracks); Maria Campbell (*Halfbreed*); Tomson Highway (*Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*); Linda Hogan (*Power; Mean Spirit*); Lee Maracle (*Ravensong*); Louis Owens (*Bone Game*); Gerald Vizenor (*The Heirs of Columbus; The Trickster of Liberty*); James Welch (*Fool’s Crow*); Robert Arthur Alexie (*Porcupines and China Dolls*); Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm; Kimberly Blaeser; Joseph Boyden (*Three Day Road*); Beth Brant; Chrystos (*Not Vanishing*); Marie Clements (*The Unnatural and Accidental Women*); Joan Crate (*Pale as Real Ladies: Poems for Pauline Johnson*); Beth Cuthand; Diane Glancy (*Pushing the Bear; Asylum in the Grasslands*); Louise Halfe (*Blue Marrow*); Joy Harjo (*How We Become Human*); Rita Joe; Pauline Johnson; Lenore Keeshig-Tobias; D’Arcy McNickle (*The Surrounded*); Beatrice Culleton Mosionier (*In Search of April Raintree*); Daniel David Moses (*Almighty Voice and his Wife*); Armand Garnet Ruffo; Luci Tapahonso; Drew Hayden Taylor (*AlterNatives*); Richard Van Camp (*The Lesser Blessed*); Richard Wagamese (*Keeper ’n Me*)

Note: Students may also choose selected readings from the following anthologies:


**PART TWO: Theory**

**A. THEMATIC OPTIONS**

**Debates about the Field:**
Arif Dirlik: “The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism”
Anne McClintock: “The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term ‘Postcolonialism’”
Benita Parry: *Postcolonial Studies: A Materialist Critique*
Stephen Slemon: “Postcolonial Critical Theories”

**Diaspora Theory:**
Ien Ang: *On Not Speaking Chinese: Living Between Asia and the West*
Rey Chow: *Writing Diaspora: Tactics of Intervention in Contemporary Cultural Studies*
Janna Evans Braziel and Anita Mannur: *Theorizing Diaspora: A Reader*
Gayatri Gopinath: *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures* (cross-listed with gender and sexuality category)

**Genre:**
Ashok Bery: *Cultural Translation and Postcolonial Poetry*
Wilson Harris: “Tradition and the West Indian Novel” (cross-listed with the Caribbean region theory category)
George Lamming: “Colonialism and the Caribbean Novel” (cross-listed with the Caribbean region theory category)
Jahan Ramazani: *The Hybrid Muse: Postcolonial Poetry in English*

**Nationalisms and Anti-Nationalisms:**
Benedict Anderson: *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*
Homi Bhabha, ed.: *Nations and Narration*
Partha Chatterjee: *The Nation and its Fragments; “The Nationalist Resolution of the Women’s Question”* (cross-listed with South Asian theory category)
Jace Weaver, Craig Womack, and Robert Warrior: *American Indian Literary Nationalism* (cross-listed with Indigenous theory category)

**Postcolonialism, Gender, and Sexuality:**
Gayatri Gopinath: *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures* (cross-listed with diaspora theory category)
Anne McClintock: *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*
Ann Laura Stoler: *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault’s History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*
Sara Suleri: “Woman Skin Deep: Feminism and the Postcolonial Condition”
Ruth Vanita: *Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society*
Daniel Heath Justice, Mark Rifkin, and Bethany Schneider, “Sexuality, Nationality, Indigeneity” (special issue of *GLQ* 2010) (cross-listed with Indigenous theory category)

**Settler Colonialism:**
Pal Ahluwalia: “When Does a Settler Become a Native?: Citizenship and Identity in a Settler Society”
Alyosha Goldstein: “Where the Nation Takes Place: Proprietary Regimes, Antistatism, and U.S. Settler Colonialism”
Alex Lubin: “‘We Are All Israelis: The Politics of Colonial Comparisons”
Stephen Slemon: “Unsettling the Empire: Resistance Theory for the Second World”
Helen Tiffin: “The Body in the Library: Identity, Opposition and the Settler-Invader Woman”
Patrick Wolfe: “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native”
B. REGIONS OPTIONS THEORY

Africa
Chinua Achebe: “The African Writer and the English Language”
Kwame Anthony Appiah: “African Identities”
Simon Gikandi: “Postcoloniality and the Claims of Globalization”
Sylvia Tamale, “Researching and Theorizing Sexualities in Africa.”
James Ferguson: Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal Order. (Chapters 1-3)

Caribbean
Jean Bernabe: Patrick Chamoiseau, and Raphael Confiant: “In Praise of Creoleness”
Edouard Glissant: Carribean Discourse; Poetics of Relation
Wilson Harris: “Tradition and the West Indian Novel”
Peter Hulme: “Survival and Invention: Indigeneity in the Caribbean”
George Lamming: “Colonialism and the Caribbean Novel”
Derek Walcott: “The Caribbean: Culture or Mimicry?”
Marlene Nourbese Philip: A Genealogy of Resistance
Sylvia Wynter: We Must Learn to Sit Down Together and Talk about a Little Culture: Reflections on West Indian Writing and Criticism.
Michel-Ralph Trouillot: Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History.
Michaeline Crichlow: Globalization and the Post-Creole Imagination: Notes on Fleeing the Plantation. (Prologue & Chapter 1)

South Asia
Partha Chatterjee: “The Nationalist Resolution of the Women’s Question” (cross-listed with nationalisms and anti-nationalisms category)
Sharankumar Limbale: Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature: History, controversies and Considerations
Arun Mukherjee, Alok Mukherjee, and Barbara Godard: “Translating Minoritized Cultures: Issues of Caste, Class and Gender”

Indigenous Theory: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States
Janice Acoose et. al., eds.: Reasoning Together: The Native Critics Collective
Chadwick Allen: Trans-Indigenous: Methodologies for Global Native Literary Studies
Jo-Ann Episkenew: Taking Back our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy, and Healing
Shari M. Huhndorf: Mapping the Americas: The Transnational Politics of Contemporary Native Culture (selected chapters)
Daniel Heath Justice: “Currents of Trans/national Criticism in Indigenous Literary Studies” (American Indian Quarterly 2011)
Daniel Heath Justice, Mark Rifkin, and Bethany Schneider, “Sexuality, Nationality, Indigeneity”
Richard Scott Lyons: *X-Marks: Native Signatures of Assent*
Sophie McCall: *First Person Plural: Aboriginal Storytelling and the Ethics of Collaborative Authorship*
Sam McKechnie: *Magic Weapons: Aboriginal Writers Remaking Community After Residential School* (selected chapters)
Elizabeth Povinelli: *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism* (selected chapters)
Deanna Reder and Linda Morra, eds.: *Troubling Tricksters: Revisioning Critical Conversations* (selected chapters)
Linda Tuhiwai Smith: *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* (selected chapters)
Cheryl Suzack et. al., eds: *Indigenous Women and Feminism: Politics, Activism, Culture* (selected chapters)
Jace Weaver, Craig Womack, and Robert Warrior: *American Indian Literary Nationalism* (cross-listed with nationalisms and anti-nationalisms category)

**Ireland**
Clare Carroll and Patricia King: *Ireland and Postcolonial Theory*
Eóin Flannery: *Ireland and Postcolonial Studies: Theory, Discourse, Utopia*
Declan Kiberd: “Inventing Ireland”
David Lloyd: *Anomalous States: Irish Writing and the Post-Colonial Moment; Ireland After History*

**Recommended Secondary Sources**
The listed secondary texts are highly recommended but are not required reading. Your answers should demonstrate an awareness of the historical and critical issues in the field, but students are not required to quote or directly refer to secondary reading.

**a.) For helpful surveys of the field, please refer to the following sources:**


**b.) For edited collections that may contain some of the critical/theoretical essays named on the lists above, please refer to the following sources:**


*Departmental regulations regarding PhD comprehensive exams can be found @ the following site: http://www.uwo.ca/english/graduate/phd.html*