

## Postcolonial Narrative – 5 Creds.

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### General

This is an optional course which aims at introducing the students to novels and short stories written in English within the framework of Postcolonial Studies. It assumes little background so begins with an introduction to colonialism. It also looks at the overlap between postcolonialism and postmodernism in the area of literary studies, genre, approach and technique.

### Distribution of the time

- Recommended reading: 50 hours
- Presentation of material in class by the teacher: 15 hours
- Activities to illustrate the material presented in class: 15 hours
- Individual work by the students: 40 hours

### Content of the classes

In class, the basic text book will be studied and discussed: Elleke Boehmer's *Colonialism and Postcolonialism* (2005), also the texts related to colonialism and postcolonialism provided by the teacher on history, theory and terminology. The first seven classes will be dedicated to each one of the chapters in the book, so the students will have to read ahead. Debates will be organised on the most polemical aspects and also the literary aspects of the various texts. Afterwards, each student will choose a different novel under the recommendation of the teacher for his/her presentation in class (in the last sessions) and posterior development into an essay.

### Evaluation

The students have to study a novel agreed on with the teacher and give a short talk in class describing the postcolonial features of the novel as set out in the text book studied (50%). Then they have to develop their findings in an essay to be handed in to the teacher at the end of the classes (50%).

### Set texts

Boehmer, Elleke (2005) *Colonialism and Postcolonialism: Migrant Metaphors*. Oxford:OUP.  
Photocopies on history, theory and terminology

### Recommended reading

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths & Helen Tiffin (2007) *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (Routledge Key Guides). London: Routledge.  
Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths & Helen Tiffin (2<sup>nd</sup> ed 2010) *The Empire Strikes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-colonial Literature*. London: Routledge.  
Huggan, Graham & Helen Tiffin (2010) *Postcolonial Ecocriticism:*

*Literature, Animals, Environment*. London: Routledge.  
Hutcheon, Linda (2005) *The Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. London: Routledge.  
Loomba, Ania (2005) *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. (The New Critical Idiom). London: Routledge.  
Russell, Jesse & Ronald Cohn (2012) *Postcolonialism*. Books on Demand Ltd.  
Said, Edward W. (1978 etc) *Orientalism*. London: Penguin.  
Walder, Dennis (1998) *Post-Colonial Literatures in English: History, Language, Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Young, Robert J C (2001) *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*. London: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Novels for the essays can be selected from authors such as the following:**

Peter Carey, Alan Duff, Richard Flanagan, Patricia Grace, Keri Hulme, Patrick White, Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, Anita Desai, Arundhati Roy, Rohinton Mistry, Monica Ali, Hanif Khureishi, Matthew Kneale, Andrea Levy, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith, Chinua Achebe, J.M.Coetzee, Amy Tan, Paule Marshall, V.S.Naipaul, Lloyd Jones, Jean Rhys and a long etc.

