

INTRODUCTION TO POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES

Séminaire d'ouverture

ENSEIGNANT·E·S :

Caroline Laurent

DESCRIPTION GÉNÉRALE DU COURS :

This course is designed to be an introduction to theories related to and defining what “postcolonialism” is and how it can be used in both academic and non-academic contexts. Postcolonialism does not only refer to a process of decolonization or the era following the independence of formerly colonized countries – the hyphenated post-colonialism – but it also is field of study. Postcolonial studies focus on diverse issues and questions that set to understand imperialism, colonialism, decolonization, and neocolonial forms of domination, and, above all, to propose expressions of resistance to oppression and ways to consider postcolonial perspectives. It is a field that examines forms of subjugation and the legacies of colonialism, possible ways to subvert them, as well the empowerment that postcolonial readings can engender. Postcolonialism thus touches upon various temporalities, histories, and geographies.

This course will present the paramount focus points in postcolonial studies: questions of power, subalternity, memory and history, identity, hybridity, mimicry, violence, trauma, language, gender and feminism, migration and diaspora, post-migratory postcolonial identities and the second generation, nationalism, capitalism, among others.

Theorists from the Anglophone and Francophone fields will be put into dialog in order to define and recognize different types of postcolonality. The importance of not conflating experiences of colonialism and postcolonial perspectives will be emphasized, and instead the search of connections between them will be encouraged, thus allowing for a productive exchange.

In this vein, Said, Bhabha, Spivak, Boehmer, Mohanty, Gilroy, Trinh T. Minh-ha will be put into dialog with Césaire, Fanon, Memmi, Mbembe, Lionnet, Derrida. Contemporary postcolonial literature, art, and cinema will anchor out study of postcolonial theories and allow for a better understanding and analysis of current representations and debates about ethnicity, identity, gender, and religion.

OBJECTIFS VISÉS ET COMPÉTENCES ACQUISES AVEC CET ENSEIGNEMENT :

Students will be able to define important terms of postcolonial studies, such as decolonization, post-colonial, postcolonial, neocolonial, subaltern, among others.

They will have read and engaged with important theories of postcolonial studies.

They will be able to consider colonial history and its legacies today, as well as synchronic (structural) phenomena in the present and their connection to diachronic processes.

They will practice articulating their ideas coherently and clearly in English.

Année : 2021-2022

Année du diplôme : 2

Cycle ou semestre : 2

ECTS : 2

Nombre d'heures de référence enseignant : 15

Modalité pédagogique principale : Présentiel Distanciel

Horaires du cours :

Vendredi 09:00-12:00 à partir du 22 octobre.