

ES 501

EUROPE AND POSTCOLONIALISM
Professor Anne Donadey, Department of European Studies
Wed 4:00-6:40 BA 443

Fall 2004

“Postcolonial theory not only allows us to understand better the history of Africa (or other former colonized countries/regions), it also allows us to question the history of Europe” (David Murphy, “De-Centring French Studies,” 2002).

“The problem with the Eng-Eng-English is that their history happened somewhere else” (Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*, 1989).

Office hours: Mon 3:30-6:00; Tu 12:30-1:30; and by appointment in BA 308

Email address (the easiest way to reach me): adonadey@mail.sdsu.edu

Telephone: 619/594-0815

Description: This course will cover the colonial encounters between various European countries (such as Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the former USSR), and African, Caribbean, and Asian regions or nations.

The first part of the semester will be devoted to understanding broad theoretical concepts such as colonialism and racism, decolonization, anti-colonialism, neo-colonialism, postcolonialism, nation, culture and identity. Readings to be discussed in class will be primarily theoretical and sociological. This theoretical overview of issues in the various colonial experiences will prepare students to better understand the specific case studies that will be covered in the second part of the semester. Presentations by the instructor and guest lecturers will focus on the history of colonial expansion (in the 19th century for most countries) and the resistance of colonized people to that invasion, including decolonization struggles (in the 20th century for most countries). Lectures will also discuss issues of importance to postcolonial nations today, as well as issues of immigration and racism in European countries today.

Student Learning Goals and Outcomes:

- You will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of the issues associated with colonial history in various countries.
- You will understand how immigration has affected the social and political dynamics in European countries.
- You will be able to compare and contrast issues related to colonialism and its aftermath in various countries through perspectives drawn from historical, theoretical, sociological, and cultural sources.

The learning environment should be accessible to all. If you have a disability that requires adaptations or accommodations, please register with Disabled Student Services and see me after class or during my office hours so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Noisemakers (ringing cell phones, pagers, watches, etc.) will not be tolerated. Do remember to turn them off or set them to vibrate before entering the classroom.

Texts required (all available at Aztec Books):

Ben Jelloun, Tahar. *French Hospitality*

Essed, Philomena. *Understanding Everyday Racism*

Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory*

A course packet

Two large exam books

The books for this class have also been placed on 2-hour reserve in the library.

Evaluation:

Please note that missing more than three classes will result in a failing grade for the course.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

25%: Five short quizzes on the readings at the beginning of each class period (weeks 2-6) for undergraduate students. No make-ups or late work accepted.

25%: Midterm (October 20) based on readings and class discussion asking you to provide definitions and explain theoretical concepts (no notes or textbooks allowed).

25%: Five short response papers (2 double-spaced pages) synthesizing what you learned from lectures and from the readings in the second part of the semester. **PAPERS MUST BE TYPED UP AND SPELL CHECKED OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Late papers will be accepted during the week following the due date with a penalty of two full letter grades. After a week, no late assignments will be accepted.**

25%: Final essay exam in which you will be asked to compare and contrast how immigration has affected the social and political dynamics of two European countries of your choice. You may bring a one page outline with a few notes, but not a pre-written paper. I will look over that page of notes and reserve the right to take it away from you if it looks too much like a pre-written paper.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

20%: Five two-page, typed-up, double-spaced papers summarizing the argument of the extra reading for the day, to be turned in at the beginning of class (weeks 2-6).

20%: A 5-8 page research paper (double-spaced) on one aspect of colonialism / decolonization / postcolonial issues in one colonizing or colonized country of your choice. The paper is due October 13.

20%: Midterm (October 20) based on readings and class discussion asking you to provide definitions and explain theoretical concepts (no notes or textbooks allowed).

20%: Five short response papers (2 double-spaced pages) synthesizing what you learned from lectures and from the readings in the second part of the semester.

20%: Final essay exam in which you will be asked to compare and contrast how immigration has affected the social and political dynamics of two European countries of your choice. You may bring a one page outline with a few notes, but not a pre-written paper.

Syllabus:

1) September 1 Introduction

2) September 8 Definitions
McClintock, "The Angel of Progress" in W+C
Césaire, "Discourse on Colonialism" in W+C
Said, "Orientalism" in W+C
Grad. Students only: also read Senghor, "Négritude" in W+C

3) September 15 Nation, Culture and Identity
Fanon, "On National Culture" in W+C
Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" in W+C
Cabral, "National Liberation and Culture" in W+C
Grad. Students only: also read Bhabha, "Remembering Fanon" in W+C

September 20 Last day to add, drop, or change grading basis

4) September 22 Language and Decolonization
Achebe, "The African Writer" in W+C
Ngugi, "Language of African Literature" in W+C
Grad. Students only: also read Loomba, "Overworlding" in W+C
You must bring 2 large exam books with your name on them to the instructor.

5) September 29 Women's Issues
Kandiyoti, "Identity and Its Discontents" in W+C
Excerpts from Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes" in W+C, 196-200; 209-214
Excerpts from Section IV of Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in W+C, 90-102
Grad. Students only: also read all of Mohanty and Spivak

6) October 6 Racism and Immigration 1
Essed chapters 1 and 6
Grad. Students only: also read chapter 3

7) October 13 Racism and Immigration 2
Ben Jelloun chapters 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

Graduate students must turn in their research paper at the beginning of class

8) October 20 MIDTERM

9) October 27 Portugal and Spain

Lectures by Professor Donadey and by Professor Wilson

Conniff and Davis, Chapters 2, 6, and 14 (all readings from now on are in the reader)

10) November 3 Great Britain

Lectures by Professor Abdel-Nour and by Professor Donadey

Philip K. Hitti, "The Arab Lands in the Modern World"

Gauri Viswanathan, "Currying Favor"

11) November 10 France

Lectures by Professor Cornwell and by Professor Donadey

Laurent Dubois, "In Search of the Haitian Revolution"

Anne Donadey, "Historical Amnesia and the Construction of National Identity"

12) November 17 Belgium and the Netherlands

Lectures by Professor Degueldre and by Professor Donadey

Oostindie and Paasman, "Dutch Attitudes Towards Colonial Empires"

Blakely, Allison, "The Dutch World"

November 24 NO CLASS

13) December 1 Germany and Italy

Lectures by Professor Schmidt and by Professor Donadey

Suzanne Zantop, "Colonial Legends, Postcolonial Legacies"

Peck, Ash and Lemke, "Natives, Strangers, and Foreigners"

Angelo Del Boca, "Myths, Suppressions, Denials, Defaults"

14) December 8 Russia and the former USSR

Discussion of the final exam and Evaluations

Lecture by Professor Shapovalov

Susan Layton, "Introduction"

David Moore, "Is the Post- in Postcolonial the Post- in Post-Soviet?"

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 4-6 P.M. IN BA 443

Your one page outline should be typed up double-spaced in a 12-point or larger font, with one-inch margins on all sides.