

Subject Code:	Course Title: <b>Postcolonial Theories and Decolonial Thinking</b>	Total Contact Hours: <b>60</b>	<b>L:</b>	<b>T: 0</b>	<b>P: 0</b>	<b>C: 4</b>
Pre-requisite: <b>None</b>		Year: <b>2023-24 (I)</b>	Semester: <b>Odd</b>			
Type of Course: <b>Open Elective (OE)</b>						

**\*\* L  Lectures, T  Tutorials, P  Practical C  Credit**

**Learning Objective:**

The course seeks to extensively analyze the debates and discussions on postcolonialism. The course focuses on understanding colonial structures, mechanisms, and relationships, and the subsequent efforts to question, challenge, and transform them. The paper pertains to the significant changes in perspectives that are emerging through which the prevailing socio-culture and history of exclusion and negation are replaced by a more inclusive approach that accommodates diverse ideologies, identities, and knowledge systems. This paper aims to elucidate the ways in which the process of decolonization, as a cultural transformation, facilitates expanded thinking and disentangles socio-cultural, political, structural, epistemological, and ontological perspectives and power dynamics.

**Course outcomes (COs):**

<b>On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:</b>	
<b>CO-1</b>	Recognize the prevailing debates and discussions on postcoloniality
<b>CO-2</b>	Understand the development of postcolonial theories and perspectives
<b>CO-3</b>	Understand the varied aspects of discourses of resistance from different schools/thinkers
<b>CO-4</b>	Analyze the emergence of alternative theories to colonial histories
<b>CO-5</b>	Analyze the concepts and processes of decolonization and delinking
<b>CO-6</b>	Correlate the entanglements of cultural, political, and structural power dynamics

Course Topics	Lecture Hours	
<b>UNIT – I: Postcolonial Theories: Debates and Discussion</b>	<b>8</b>	
1.1. Ella Shohat. “Notes on the ‘Post-colonial’”	2	
1.2. Anne McClintock. “The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term ‘Post-Colonialism’”	2	
1.3. Robert Stam and Ella Shohat. “Whence and Whither Postcolonial Theory?”	2	
1.4. Arif Dirlik. “The Postcolonial Aura.”	2	

<b>UNIT – II: The founding theories of postcolonialism</b>	<b>16</b>	
2.1. Excerpts from Edward Said’s <i>Orientalism</i>	4	
2.2. “Preface,” “Concerning Violence,” and “Pitfalls of National Consciousness in Franz Fanon’s <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>	5	
2.3. Homi K. Bhabha’s “The Other Question”	4	
2.4. Gayatri Chakraborty’s essay- “Can the Subaltern Speak?”	3	
<b>UNIT – III: Resistance to Colonialism</b>		
4.1. Dipesh Chakraborty’s essay “Provincializing Europe: Postcoloniality and the Critique of History”	3	
4.2. Excerpts from <i>The Empire Writes Back</i>	3	
4.3. “Introduction” from Paul Gilroy’s <i>The Black Atlantic</i>	3	
4.4. Stuart Hall’s essay “Cultural Identity and Diaspora”	3	
<b>UNIT-IV: Understanding Decolonization</b>		
3.1. Walter D. Mignolo’s “DELINKING: The rhetoric of modernity”	4	
3.2. Walter D. Mignolo’s “On Decoloniality: Second Thoughts”	4	
3.3. Gurminder Bhambra’s “Postcolonial and decolonial dialogues.”	4	
<b>UNIT – V: Understanding the ‘Coloniality of Power’ and decolonial thinking</b>		
5.1. Nelson Maldonado-Torres’s “On the coloniality of being”	4	
5.2. Anibal Quijano’s “Coloniality and Eurocentrism in Latin America”	4	

**Primary Readings (Selected/Excerpts)**

1. B. Ashcroft, G. Griffiths, and H. Tiffin. *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-colonial Literatures*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2002.
2. H. K Bhabha. "The Other Question..." *Screen*, Volume 24 (6): 18–36, 1983.
3. G. K. Bhabra. "Postcolonial and decolonial dialogues." *Postcolonial Studies* 17 (2): 115–121, 2014.
4. D. Chakrabarty. "Provincializing Europe: Postcoloniality and the critique of history" *Cultural Studies* 6 (3) 337-357, 1992.
5. A. Dirlik. "The Postcolonial Aura." *Critical Inquiry*, 20 (2): 328-356, 1994.
6. F. Fanon. 2004. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2004.
7. P. Gilroy. *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.
8. S. Hall. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora." In J. Rutherford (Ed.), *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1990.
9. N. Maldonado-Torres. "On the coloniality of being: Contributions to the development of a concept." *Cultural studies* 21 (2-3): 240-270, 2007.
10. A. Memmi. *Decolonization and the Decolonized*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.
11. A. McClintock. "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Post-Colonialism.'" *Social Text* (31/32): 84-98, 1992.
12. W. D. Mignolo. "DELINKING: The rhetoric of modernity, the logic of coloniality and the grammar of de-coloniality." *Cultural Studies* 21 (2-3): 449-514, 2007.
13. W. D. Mignolo. "On decoloniality: second thoughts." *Postcolonial Studies* 23 (4): 612-618, 2020.
14. A. Quijano. "Coloniality of power and Eurocentrism in Latin America." *International sociology* 15 (2): 215-232, 2000.
15. E. Said. *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.
16. E. Shohat. "Notes on the 'Post-Colonial.'" *Social Text*, 31/32: 99-113, 1992.
17. G. C. Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak?" In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Ed. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988.
18. R. Stam and E. Shohat. "Whence and Whither Postcolonial Theory?" *New Literary History* 43.2: 371–390, 2012.

**Reference Readings:**

1. E. Boehmer. *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.
2. A. Loomba. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. London: Routledge, 1998.
3. L. Gandhi. *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction*. London: Routledge, 1998.
4. P. K. Nayar. *Postcolonial Literature: An Introduction*. Pearson, 2008.

**Additional Resources:** Select NPTEL lectures, Web Sources on Postcolonial and Decolonial Theories

**Evaluation Model**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
<b>1 Quiz</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Seminar Presentation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Seminar Presentation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Term Paper</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>End Term</b>	<b>40</b>

**Last Update: 18 Aug 2023**  
**Prepared by: Dr. Payel Pal**