Description
Colonialism, the conquest, settlement, and domination by other means of European empires over Asia, Africa, and the Americas has been one of the key elements of political modernity, leaving in its wake a legacy of destruction, slavery, displacement, dependency, and racism. While the history of colonialism has long been neglected by political theorists and philosophers, contemporary political theory is marked by the postcolonial condition, the unfinished process of decolonization, and the resulting need to rethink many of its basic concepts and premises.

The terms postcolonialism, postcolonial studies, postcolonial theory, and subaltern studies describe intellectual formations and approaches that have largely been developed in the humanities, in departments of literary and cultural studies, over the course of the past three decades. Postcolonial scholars have argued that literary and cultural practices have been central to the colonial and decolonial processes in shaping the discourses, knowledges, and identities that both justify and contest colonialism. This course introduces students to some of the main lines of inquiry pursued by postcolonial studies and controversies to which they have given rise, all with an eye to the political and political-theoretical stakes of these debates.

Prerequisites
This is a 300-level course. In accordance with departmental regulations, this means that students must have taken a 200-level course in the same field (i.e. POLI 231 or 232).

Required Texts
The following books are available for purchase from The Word Bookstore, 469 Milton Street (cash or cheque only). They will also be on reserve in the Humanities & Social Sciences Library.


All other readings are either directly linked in the syllabus or will be available on myCourses.
Students are encouraged to read texts in the original languages. Contact me for bibliographic information.

**Assignments and Grades**

Written assignments for this course will consist of two papers (6-8 page), two sets of peer evaluations, a midterm and a final examination.

All assignments are due on the dates indicated in the syllabus. They are to be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class. Late papers will be docked one third of a letter grade for every day late, including weekends. Extensions are available only for serious and documented reasons, and they must be requested ahead of time. No extensions will be granted on (or after) an assignment’s due date. Do not send assignments via email unless otherwise instructed.

Your written work will be graded on originality, reasoning and argument, organization, clarity of exposition, and style. Peer evaluations are graded pass/fail and essays are graded on the letter grade scale (A to F) where the individual letters correspond to the following grade points:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>D</td>
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A detailed grading rubric will be posted on myCourses.

Final grades are calculated according to the following schedule. Note that you must receive a passing grade in each of the following grade categories in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

- First Paper 20%
- Second Paper 20%
- Midterm 15%
- Final Exam 25%
- Peer Evaluations 5% x 2 10%
- Participation and Exercises 10%

Evaluation is a central part of education, and much effort goes into ensuring the fairness of academic grades. Assessments, grading scales and rubrics are designed to measure how well students meet the
course objectives. Students have a right to expect impartiality, consistency, respect, integrity, and feedback from their instructors.

Students may ask for a review of their grade and a re-read of any assessment for this course. The Department of Political Science's Assessment and Re-Read Policy applies. Requests for review and re-reads should normally be made within two weeks following the return of a graded assessment. If an assessment was graded by the TA, students should first discuss their request for a review with the TA. All requests for grade review must be accompanied by the original assessment including the grades, comments, and annotations made by the TA or the professor as well as by a brief one-paragraph explanation why the student deems the grade inappropriate.

Classroom Policies

Research shows that people learn more when they actively engage the material and the learning process, rather than passively listen to the instructor. Class meetings will involve various forms of active learning, including writing exercises. You are responsible for having read the assigned texts prior to the class meeting. Prepare for class by taking notes and by thinking about questions, ideas, or problems that arise in your reading. Be sure to bring books and hard copy printouts of readings to class.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. Please note that I take plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty seriously, and your work will be reviewed for potential plagiarism issues by means of text-matching software.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant-e a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

Research shows that students who take notes by hand significantly outperform students who take notes on mobile computing devices (even when the devices are offline and used exclusively for note-taking). For your own educational benefit, While laptops and tablets are not prohibited in this class, I strongly urge you to leave them at home or stowed away in your bags. Needless to say, any use of electronic equipment may only be used for note-taking. Any other use (including e-mail, web surfing, games, chat, messaging, and so on) is distracting and disruptive to fellow students and is not permitted during class time.

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities/MyAccess (514)398-6009.
Class Schedule

Sep 2  No class -- Read syllabus and prepare for Sep 7.
Sep 5  No class (Labour Day)

I. Questions and Approaches

Sep 7  Definitions and Terminology


Sep 12  Political Theory and the Justification of Colonialism


II. Colonial Discourse and Subaltern Subjects

Sep 14  Orientalism


Sep 19  Orientalism


Sep 21  Subaltern Subjects and Identities


Subaltern Subjects and Identities

Sep 26


III. Theorizing Coloniality and Empire

Sep 28

Postcoloniality and History


Oct 3

No class (Rosh Hashana)

Oct 5

MIDTERM

How to write a political theory paper

Oct 10

No class (Thanksgiving)

Oct 12

No class (Yom Kippur)

Oct 17

Coloniality


FIRST PAPER DRAFT DUE

Oct 19

Imperialism and Capitalism


PEER EVALUATION DUE

Oct 24

The "New" Imperialism


FIRST PAPER DUE
Oct 26  
The West and the Globe


IV. Material Processes

Oct 31  
Colonial Governmentality


Nov 2  
Constructing Colonial Difference


Nov 7  
Constructing Colonial Difference


Nov 9  
Constructing Colonial Difference


V. Anticolonial Strategies

Nov 14  
Négritude and Pan-Africanism


Nov 16 Anti-Colonial Nationalism and Culture


Nov 16 6:05-8:25 pm ARTS W-215 -- (Note unusual time and place)
Screening of Gillo Pontecorvo, The Battle of Algiers (1966), 122 mins
If you cannot attend the screening, watch the movie on your own before Nov. 21

Nov 21 Insurgency and Struggle


Nov 23 Activism


• Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)

• PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel (Revised July 2014)

Nov 28  
Delinking


SECOND PAPER DRAFT DUE

VI. Reappraisal and Review

Nov 30  
Postcolonial Studies Revisited


PEER EVALUATION DUE

Dec 5  
Review

SECOND PAPER DUE

TBA  
FINAL EXAM