

Contemporary Political Theory: Postcolonial Constellations

<p>POLI 363 Fall 2016</p> <p>MAASS 217 M/W 2:35-3:55 PM</p>	<p>Professor Yves Winter email: yves.winter@mcgill.ca twitter: @whywinter Office: 418 Ferrier Office hours: T 2:00-4:00 (except Oct. 11) or by appointment</p> <p>TA: Eric Schildroth eric.schildroth@mail.mcgill.ca</p>
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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.

- Patrick Wolfe. Traces of History: Elementary Structures of Race. London and New York: Verso, 2016 (\$31).
- Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism. New York: International Publishers, 1969 (\$7).

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:

Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0

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

- Ania Loomba. "[Defining the terms: Colonialism, Imperialism, Neo-Colonialism, Postcolonialism.](#)" In [Colonialism/ Postcolonialism](#). London and New York: Routledge, 2005, pp. 7-22
- Anne McClintock. "[The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term "Post-Colonialism."](#)" [Social Text](#) 31/32 (1992): 84–98.

Sep 12 Political Theory and the Justification of Colonialism

- Uday Singh Mehta. "[Liberal Strategies of Exclusion,](#)" In [Tensions of Empire : Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World](#), edited by Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997, pp. 59-86.
- Karuna Mantena. "The Crisis of Liberal Imperialism," In [Alibis of Empire: Henry Maine and the Ends of Liberal Imperialism](#). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010, pp. 21-55.

II. Colonial Discourse and Subaltern Subjects

Sep 14 Orientalism

- Edward W. Said. [Orientalism](#). New York: Vintage, 1994, pp. 1-49.

Sep 19 Orientalism

- Edward W. Said. [Orientalism](#). New York: Vintage, 1994, pp. 284-328.
- Naomi Klein, "[Let Them Drown: The Violence of Othering in a Warming World.](#)" [London Review of Books](#) 38, no. 11 (2016): pp. 11-14

Sep 21 Subaltern Subjects and Identities

- Ranajit Guha. "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India," In [Selected Subaltern Studies](#), edited by Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1988, pp. 37-44.
- Dipesh Chakrabarty. "[Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts,](#)" In [Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference](#). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000, pp. 97-116.

- Sep 26 Subaltern Subjects and Identities
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty. "[Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses](#)," In *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003, pp. 17-42.
 - Anne McClintock. "[Imperial Leather: Race, Cross-Dressing, and the Cult of Domesticity](#)," In *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context*. New York: Routledge, 1995, pp. 132-180.

III. Theorizing Coloniality and Empire

- Sep 28 Postcoloniality and History
- Dipesh Chakrabarty. [Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference](#). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000, pp. 3-16, 27-46, 237-255.
- 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
- Anibal Quijano and Immanuel Wallerstein. "[Americanity as a concept, or the Americas in the modern world](#)." *International Social Science Journal* 44, no. 134 (1992), pp. 549-57.
 - Anibal Quijano. "[Coloniality of power and Eurocentrism in Latin America](#)." *International Sociology* 15, no. 2 (2000), pp. 215-32.
- FIRST PAPER DRAFT DUE**
- Oct 19 Imperialism and Capitalism
- Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. New York: International Publishers, 1969, Preface to the French and German Editions, chapters. 4-7, 10.
- PEER EVALUATION DUE**
- Oct 24 The "New" Imperialism
- Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin. "[Global Capitalism and American Empire](#)." *Socialist Register* 40 (2004): pp. 1-42.
- FIRST PAPER DUE**

- Oct 26 The West and the Globe
- Timothy Brennan. "From Development to Globalization: Postcolonial Studies and Globalization Theory," In The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies, edited by Neil Lazarus. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 120-38.
 - Neil Lazarus. "[The Fetish of "the West" in Postcolonial Theory](#)," In Marxism, Modernity, and Postcolonial Studies, edited by Crystal Bartolovich and Neil Lazarus, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 43-64.

IV. Material Processes

- Oct 31 Colonial Governmentality
- Hannah Arendt. "Race and Bureaucracy," In The Origins of Totalitarianism. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1973, pp. 185-221
 - Timothy Mitchell. "[Enframing](#)," In Colonising Egypt. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988, pp. 34-62.
- Nov 2 Constructing Colonial Difference
- Ann Laura Stoler. "[Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia](#)," In Tensions of Empire : Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World, edited by Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997, pp. 198-237.
 - Anne McClintock. "[Soft-Soaping Empire: Commodity Racism and Imperial Advertising](#)," In Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context. New York: Routledge, 1995, pp. 207-31.
- Nov 7 Constructing Colonial Difference
- Frantz Fanon. "The Lived Experience of the Black Man," In Black Skin, White Masks. Translated by Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2008, pp. 89-119.
 - Patrick Wolfe. Traces of History: Elementary Structures of Race. London and New York: Verso, 2016, pp. 1-60.
- Nov 9 Constructing Colonial Difference
- Patrick Wolfe. Traces of History: Elementary Structures of Race. London and New York: Verso, 2016, pp. 113-40, 173-270

V. Anticolonial Strategies

- Nov 14 Négritude and Pan-Africanism
- Aimé Césaire. Discourse on Colonialism. Translated by Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000, pp. 31-46.

- Léopold Sédar Senghor. "Négritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century," In The Africa Reader: Independent Africa, edited by Wilfred Cartey and Martin Kilson, New York: Vintage, 1970, pp. 179-192.
- W. E. B. Du Bois. "The Conservation of Races," In The Souls of Black Folk. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 179-88.
- Stokely Carmichael. "Pan-Africanism," In Stokely Speaks: From Black Power to Pan-Africanism. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2007, pp.243-288.

Nov 16 Anti-Colonial Nationalism and Culture

- Frantz Fanon. "On National Culture," In The Wretched of the Earth. Translated by Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2004, pp. 145-180.
- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. "Introduction" and "The Language of African Literature," In Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature. Harare: Zimbabwe Publishing House, 1981, pp. 1-33.
- Partha Chatterjee. The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993, pp. 3-13.

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

- Ernesto Che Guevara. Guerilla Warfare. Lincoln, NE: Bison Books, 1998, pp. 7-37.
- Amílcar Cabral. "Unity and Struggle," "Presuppositions and Objectives of National Liberation in Relation to Social Structure," "Strengthen Security and Discipline in All Sectors of the Struggle," "Destroy the Economy of the Enemy and Build Our Own Economy," In Unity and Struggle. Translated by Michael Wolfers. New York: Monthly Review, 1979, pp. 28-44, 119-137; 236-241.
- Malcolm X. "The Ballot or the Bullet," In Malcolm X Speaks: Selected Speeches and Statements, edited by George Breitman, New York: Grove Press, 1965, pp. 23-44.

Nov 23 Activism

- Glen Sean Coulthard. "[Conclusion: Lessons From Idle No More](#)," In Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014, pp. 151-179.
- [Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions \(BDS\)](#)
- [PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel \(Revised July 2014\)](#)
- Omar Barghouti. BDS: Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights. Chicago: Haymarket, 2011, pp. 49-62; 85-97; 143-150.

Nov 28

Delinking

- Walter D. Mignolo. "[Delinking: The Rhetoric of Modernity, the Logic of Coloniality and the Grammar of De-Coloniality.](#)" *Cultural Studies* 21, no. 2-3 (2007), pp. 449–514.

SECOND PAPER DRAFT DUE

VI. Reappraisal and Review

Nov 30

Postcolonial Studies Revisited

- Robert J.C. Young. "[Postcolonial Remains.](#)" *New Literary History* 43, no. 1 (2012), pp. 19–42.
- Benita Parry. "[What is Left in Postcolonial Studies?](#)" *New Literary History* 43, no. 2 (2012), pp. 341–58.
- Neil Lazarus,, and Rashmi Varma. "[Marxism and Postcolonial Studies,](#)" In *Critical Companion to Contemporary Marxism*, edited by Jacques Bidet, and Stathis Kouvelakis. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2008, pp. 309–32.

PEER EVALUATION DUE

Dec 5

Review

SECOND PAPER DUE

TBA

FINAL EXAM