

EUROP 501

EUROPE AND POSTCOLONIALISM

Fall 2008

Professor Anne Donadey, Department of European Studies

Wed. 4:00-6:40

AH 3157

“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. 1:00-3:00 p.m.; Th. 7-8 p.m.; and by appointment in EBA 308

(Business Administration, recently renamed Education and Business)

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

Telephone: 619/594-0815

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

The first part of the semester will be devoted to understanding concepts such as colonialism and racism, decolonization, anti-colonialism, neo-colonialism, postcolonialism, nation and immigration, 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 19<sup>th</sup> century for most countries) and the resistance of colonized people to that invasion, including decolonization struggles (in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:**

- 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 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 Student Disability Services and see me after class or during my office hours so that we can make appropriate arrangements. SDSU also makes accommodations for religious holidays, provided the student lets the instructor know within the first two weeks of class.

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 the SDSU Bookstore and on 2-hour reserve in the library):

Ben Jelloun, Tahar. *French Hospitality* (listed under “J” at the bookstore)

Essed, Philomena. *Understanding Everyday Racism*

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

A course packet (TBD)

Two large exam books

**Evaluation:**

**25%:** Six short quizzes on the readings at the beginning of each class period, based on reading questions provided the week before (weeks 2-7). No make-up or late work will be accepted, but the lowest grade will be dropped.

**Graduate students** will also do a 10-15 minute oral presentation on the readings assigned for one class period to open up class discussion (weeks 2-5). The presentation should NOT be an in-depth summary of each article one after the other, but should **synthesize** the readings' arguments, comparing individual articles' positions with that of the other essays, possibly providing a critique of them, and providing 2-3 questions for class discussion. Each graduate student should sign up for a specific week. Bear in mind that a concise, well organized presentation takes careful preparation. The graduate student will not take the quiz that day. For graduate students, quizzes are worth 10% of the grade, the oral presentation 15%.

**25%:** Midterm (October 22) 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 (weeks 9-14). **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 class) in which you will be asked to compare and contrast a theme or issue as it affects two or more countries (specific topic TBA). You may bring a one page outline with a few notes and a bibliography, but not a pre-written paper. I will look over the page of notes and reserve the right to take it away from you if it looks too much like a pre-written paper.

Assignment grading scale:

- A: Excellent achievement in both substance and style.
- B: Good work overall.
- C: Average achievement, or very good achievement in only one area.
- D: Below average achievement. Passing at a minimal level.
- F: Failure to achieve class goals.

**Academic Honesty:**

You are free to discuss ideas and strategies for approaching assignments with others, but with the exception of in-class group work, students must complete their own work individually. Using other people's work in any form and passing it off as your own will result in disciplinary action. You must always give credit for ideas from other sources (including the Web), even if you are not citing word for word. The CSU system mandates that faculty report students whom they believe have cheated to the Judicial Procedures Office. In addition to the academic penalty (usually an F for the assignment or for the course), the Judicial Procedures Office may decide upon additional sanctions such as expulsion.

**Conflicts/Issues:**

Should you have any concerns about the course, please see me during my office hours or make an appointment and we will try to resolve the problem together. If you are not satisfied with the resolution after having discussed the issue with me, you may contact Dr. Edith Benkov, Chair of the Department of European Studies, at [ebenkov@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ebenkov@mail.sdsu.edu) or 619/594-5127.

**Syllabus:**

- 1) September 3            Introduction
  
- 2) September 10        Definitions  
McClintock, "The Angel of Progress" in W+C  
Césaire, "Discourse on Colonialism" in W+C  
Said, "Orientalism" in W+C
  
- 3) September 17        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

**September 22            Last day to add, drop, or change grading basis**

- 4) September 24        Language and Decolonization  
Achebe, "The African Writer" in W+C  
Ngugi, "Language of African Literature" in W+C  
Last day to complete the SDSU library tutorial on plagiarism at <http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/index.cfm> and to turn in the printout demonstrating that you took the tutorial and the two tests to the instructor

5) October 1                      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  
**You must bring 2 large exam books with your name on them to the instructor.**

6) October 8                      Racism and Immigration 1  
Essed chapters 1 and 6

7) October 15                      Racism and Immigration 2  
Ben Jelloun chapters 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

8) October 22                      MIDTERM

9) October 29 Portugal and Spain

**Lectures by Professor Donadey**

- Conniff and Davis, Chapters 2, 6, and 14 (xerox)

Until the end of the semester, all readings are on ECR, password colonialism

10) November 5 Russia and the former USSR; Great Britain

**Lectures by Professors Shapovalov and Abdel-Nour**

- Susan Layton, "Introduction" (ECR)
- David Moore, "Is the Post- in Postcolonial the Post- in Post-Soviet?" (Online in the library: Search PAC for title *PMLA*. Select Internet source. Click on online access. Click on JSTOR. Click on 2002-2002. Click on 2001 Vol. 116, No. 1. Click on the PDF version of Moore's essay)
- Philip K. Hitti, "The Arab Lands in the Modern World" (ECR)

11) November 12 The Netherlands and Great Britain

**Lectures by Professors Donadey and Beasley**

- Gauri Viswanathan, "Currying Favor" (ECR)
- Oostindie and Paasman, "Dutch Attitudes Towards Colonial Empires" (ECR)
- Blakely, Allison, "The Dutch World" (ECR)

12) November 19 Italy and Germany

**Lectures by Professors Clò and Donadey**

- Angelo Del Boca, "Myths, Suppressions, Denials, Defaults" (ECR)
- Suzanne Zantop, "Colonial Legends, Postcolonial Legacies" (ECR)
- Peck, Ash and Lemke, "Natives, Strangers, and Foreigners" (ECR)

November 26 NO CLASS

13) December 3 France

**Lectures by Professors Donadey and Colwill**

- Anne Donadey, "Historical Amnesia and the Construction of National Identity" (ECR)
- Laurent Dubois, "In Search of the Haitian Revolution" (ECR)

14) December 10 Belgium; Discuss final exam

**Lecture by Professor Donadey**

**FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 4-6 P.M. IN AH 3157**

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