

Postcolonial Indian Literature

Class code V41.9975.001

**Instructor
Details** Professor Javed Majeed
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Class Details Spring 2009
Wednesday 10-1
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites None

**Class
Description** This course explores the meanings of colonialism and postcolonialism in India by examining its historical background, its main themes and its defining problems. The course introduces students to some of the key texts of British cultural and educational policy in India. It also gives students the opportunity to examine a major ethnographic text. The course will then grapple with a cross-section of colonial and postcolonial literary representations of India. The focus here will be on issues of identity and strategies of narrative in colonialist and nationalist texts. The course concludes with an overall view of postcolonial studies as it relates to India and some suggestions as to its future developments.

The course will consist of lectures followed by seminars.

**Desired
Outcomes** The course has two aims. First, to give students a solid grasp of the field of postcolonial literary studies in general in terms of its defining problems and themes, and second, to give students a focussed knowledge of colonial and postcolonial representations of India. The classes are designed to develop the critical analysis of texts by students. They are also designed to facilitate the elaboration of students' insights into the texts which are explored in each session.

**Assessment
Components** One mid-semester research paper 3000 words 30% of total marks.
One end of semester research paper 4000 words 50% of total marks
Class participation 20% of total marks

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment
Expectations** **Grade A:** Demonstration of original and independent thinking, and evidence of genuine insight, combined with a well-structured and clear argument. The student should also show a keen awareness of the complexities of the issues at stake and should be sensitive to the nuances of texts. Positive participation in the classroom is important.

Grade B: Demonstration of some independent thinking and some insight, with a clear argument. Positive participation in the classroom is important.

Grade C: Demonstration of a solid and competent grasp of the text and the issues it exemplifies,

expressed clearly. Some participation in the classroom is important

Grade D: Demonstration of a competent grasp of the text and the critical issues it exemplifies.

Grade F: Lack of all of the above.

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100

A-=90-93

B+=87-89

B=84-86

B-=80-83

C+=77-79

C=74-76

C-=70-73

D+=67-69

D=65-66

F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to insure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. (Stern has a different grading policy that we follow in all Stern courses).

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance Policy

NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should **NOT** approach them for excused absences. Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Student Life **within one week** of your return to class. Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs prior to the date(s) in question. Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student's final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYU-L also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early

departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Late Submission of Work

- (1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- (2) Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs **in office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to Becky Kelley (becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk) for submission to Turnitin.
- (3) Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.
- (4) Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- (5) **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

All students must submit an electronic copy of their written work to www.turnitin.com. This database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students' work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

- 1) Go onto the Turnitin website <http://www.turnitin.com>
- 2) Click 'New Users' in the top right hand corner
- 3) Select user type of 'student'
- 4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrollment password (these will be e-mailed to you at the start of term, or contact Becky Kelley if you have misplaced these at becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk)
- 5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

- 1) Log in to the Turnitin website
- 2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
- 3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the 'submit'

icon

- 4) Enter the title of your piece of work
- 5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.) and click 'submit'
- 6) Click 'yes, submit' to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or 'no, go back' to retry)
- 7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
- 8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it (this appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address).

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

**Required
Text(s)**

Wilkie Collins, The Moonstone (1868) 0-14-062013-3 Penguin Popular Classics
Anita Desai, Baumgartner's Bombay (1988) Vintage 0-7493-8674-6
E.M. Forster, A Passage to India (1924) Penguin Books 0-14-018076-1
Rudyard Kipling, Kim (1901) Penguin Classics 978-0140620
M.K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj and other writings ed. Anthony Parel (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997) ISBN: 0 52157431 5.
M.K. Gandhi, An Autobiography, or The Story of My Experiments with Truth (1927-9) Penguin Books 0-14-006626-8
R.K. Narayan, The Painter of Signs (1976) King Penguin 0-14-006259-9
Jawaharlal Nehru, Discovery of India (1946) 978-0143031031 Oxford India paperback
Salman Rushdie, Shame (1981)) 0-330-28284-0 Picador
Meadows Taylor, Confessions of a Thug (1839) 0-19-285157-8 Oxford University Press

**Supplemental
Texts(s) (not
required to
purchase as
copies are in
NYU-L Library)**

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, The empire writes back. Theory and practice in post-colonial literatures (London and New York: Routledge, 1989).
Elleke Boehmer, Colonial and postcolonial literature (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995).
Partha Chatterjee, Nationalist thought and the colonial world - a derivative discourse? (London: Zed Books, 1986).
Antony Copley, Gandhi. Against the tide. (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987).
Ralph Crane, Inventing India. A History of India in English-Language Fiction (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1992)
M.D. Fletcher, Reading Rushdie - perspectives on the fiction of Salman Rushdie (Amsterdam and Atlanta GA: Editions Rodop B.V, 1994).
Javed Majeed, Autobiography, Travel and Postnational identity. Gandhi, Nehru and Iqbal (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, Cambridge Imperial and Postcolonial Series, 2007).
Judie Newman, The ballistic bard: postcolonial fictions (London: Arnold, 1995).
Bhikhu Parekh, Gandhi (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

Lyn Pykett, New Casebooks. Wilkie Collins (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998) Chs 8, 10, 11.

Salman Rushdie, 'Kipling' in Imaginary homelands. Essays and criticism 1981-1991 (London: Granta books and Penguin).

Jenny Bourne Taylor, In the secret theatre of Home. Wilkie Collins, sensation narrative, and nineteenth-century psychology (London and New York: Routledge, 1988).

Dennis Walder, Post-colonial literatures in English. History language theory (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998).

William Walsh, R.K. Narayan. A critical appreciation (Heinemann: London, 1982).

**Internet
Research
Guidelines**

N/A

**Additional
Required
Equipment**

N/A

Session 1

A) The terms 'colonial' and 'postcolonial'.

[21.1.09]

B) Historical background – the British empire in the nineteenth century and decolonisation in the twentieth century.

Important reading

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, The empire writes back. Theory and practice in post-colonial literatures (London and New York: Routledge, 1989) Introduction.

Elleke Boehmer, Colonial and postcolonial literature (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995) Introduction and Chapters 1-2.

Dennis Walder, Post-colonial literatures in English. History language theory (Oxford: Blackwell, 1988) Chs 1-2.

Supplementary reading

T.O. Lloyd, The British Empire 1558-1983 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984) Chapters 6-13.

Ania Loomba, Colonialism/Postcolonialism (London and New York: Routledge, 1998) Chapter 1.

Session 2

Orientalism: 'The Oriental renaissance' and the Asiatic society of Bengal

SET TEXTS: Sir William Jones' 'An Essay on the Poetry of the Eastern Nations' (1772, COPY PROVIDED TO STUDENTS) and 'Third Anniversary Discourse' (1786; COPY PROVIDED TO STUDENTS)

[28.1.09]

Important reading

Tony Ballantyne, Orientalism and race. Aryanism in the British empire (Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke and New York, 2002)

C.A. Bayly, Empire and information. Intelligence gathering and social communication in India, 1780-1870 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

O.P. Kejariwal, The Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Discovery of India's past 1784-1838 (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1988).

Javed Majeed, Ungoverned Imaginings (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992) Chapter one.

S.N. Mukherjee, Sir William Jones: A study in eighteenth-century British attitudes to India (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968).

Edward Said, Orientalism (London: Routledge, 1978).

Raymond Schwab, The oriental renaissance: Europe's rediscovery of India and the East, 1680-1880, translated Gene Patterson-Black and Victor Reinking (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984).

Thomas R. Trautmann, Aryans and British India (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).

Session 3

The Great Indian Education Debate

[4.2.09]

SET TEXTS: T.B. Macaulay's 'Minute of 2nd February 1835' (COPY PROVIDED) and H.H. Wilson's 'Education of the Natives of India' (1835, COPY PROVIDED)

Important reading

Elmer Cutts, 'The background of Macaulay's Minute,' The American Historical Review (1952-3) 58: 824-53.

David Kopf, British Orientalism and the Bengal renaissance: the dynamics of Indian modernization 1773-1835 (1969).

Javed Majeed, "'The jargon of Indostan'": an exploration of jargon in Urdu and East India company English', Languages and Jargons. Towards a social history of Language, ed. Peter Burke and Roy Porter (1995) 185-205.

Gauri Viswanathan, Masks of conquest: literary study and British rule in India (1992).

Lynn Zastoupil and Martin Moir ed., The Great Indian education debate. Documents relating to the Orientalist-Anglicist controversy, 1781-1843 (London, 1999).

Session 4

Law, literature and authority: SET TEXT: Meadows Taylor's Confessions of a Thug (1839)

[11.02.09]

Important reading

Javed Majeed, Meadows Taylor's Confessions of a thug: the Anglo-Indian novel as a genre in the making', in Bart Moore-Gilbert ed. Writing India 1757-1990 (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1996) pp. 86-110.

Radhika Singha, "'Providential" circumstances: The Thuggee Campagin of the 1830s and legal Innovation', Modern Asian Studies, 27, 1 (1993) pp. 83-146

Philip Meadows Taylor, Story of my life (1878; Zwan Publications, 1989).

Session 5

The alien and the domestic. SET TEXT: Wilkie Collins' The Moonstone (1868).

[18.02.09]

Important Reading

Lyn Pykett, New Casebooks. Wilkie Collins (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998) Chs 8, 10, 11.

Jenny Bourne Taylor, In the secret theatre of Home. Wilkie Collins, sensation narrative, and nineteenth-century psychology (London and New York: Routledge, 1988).

Supplementary Reading

Sue Lonoff, Wilkie Collins and his Victorian readers. A study in the rhetoric of authorship (New York: AMS Press, 1982).

D.A. Miller, The novel and the police (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1988) Ch 2.

Nicholas Rance, Wilkie Collins and other sensation novelists (Macmillan: Basingstoke, 1991) Ch 7.

Session 6

The complexities of imperial representations. SET TEXT: Kipling's Kim (1901; Penguin Classics, 1987)

[25.02.09]

Important Reading

Edward W. Said, 'Introduction' to Rudyard Kipling, Kim (Penguin Classics, 1987) pp. 7-46

Robert Fraser, Victorian quest romance. Stevenson, Haggard, Kipling, and Conan Doyle (Plymouth: Northcote House Publishers, 1998) Chapter 5.
Salman Rushdie, 'Kipling' in Imaginary homelands. Essays and criticism 1981-1991 (London: Granta books and Penguin) 74-80.

Supplementary Reading

Sara Suleri, The rhetoric of English India (Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 1992) especially Chapter 5.

Zohreh T. Sullivan, Narratives and empire. The fictions of Rudyard Kipling (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), Chapter 10.

Session 7

The question of hollowness: SET TEXT: E.M. Forster's A Passage to India (1924)

[4.03.09]

Important Reading

John Beer ed. A Passage to India. Essays in Interpretation (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1985).
Harold Bloom, E.M. Forster's A Passage to India (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1987).
M.M. Mahood, The Colonial Encounter. A Reading of Six Novels (London: Rex Collings, 1977).
Sara Suleri, The Rhetoric of English India (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1992).

Supplementary Reading

P. Levine, Creation and Criticism. A Passage to India (London: Chatto & Windus, 1971).
J. Majeed, 'Bathos, architecture and knowing India: E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India* and Nineteenth-Century British Ethnology and the Romance Quest,' Journal of Commonwealth Literature, 40, 1 (March 2005) 21-36.
F. Meyer, Fiction and the Colonial Experience (Ipswich: Boydell Press, 1973).

Session 8

Redefining one's self and India. SET TEXT: M.K Gandhi, Hind Swaraj and other writings, ed. Anthony Parel (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

[11.03.09]

Important Reading

Bhikhu Parekh, Gandhi (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).
Antony Copley, Gandhi. Against the tide. (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987).
Javed Majeed, Autobiography, Travel and Postnational Identity (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) Chs 1-3, 6-7.

Supplementary Reading

Partha Chatterjee, Nationalist thought and the colonial world - a derivative discourse? (London: Zed Books, 1986).

Session 9

Redefining one's self and India: Jawaharlal Nehru's Discovery of India (1946)

[18.03.09]

Important Reading

Partha Chatterjee, Nationalist thought and the colonial world - a derivative discourse? (London: Zed Books, 1986).

Javed Majeed, Autobiography, Travel and Postnational Identity (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) Chs 1-4/

Sanjay Seth, 'Nationalism, national identity and 'history': Nehru's search for India'. Thesis Eleven 32 (1992) 37-54.

Supplementary Reading

Daniele Conversi, 'Reassessing current theories of nationalism: nationalism as boundary maintenance and creation', Nationalism and ethnic politics 1,1 (1995) 73-85.

Denis Judd, Jawaharlal Nehru. (Cardiff: GPC books, 1993).

B.R. Nanda, Jawaharlal Nehru. Rebel and statesman (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995).

Stanley Wolpert, Nehru. A tryst with destiny. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Session 10

Redefining one's self and India. SET TEXT: M.K. Gandhi, An Autobiography or The Story of my experiments with Truth (1927-9; Penguin edition)

[25.03.09]

Important Reading

Bhikhu Parekh, Gandhi (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

Antony Copley, Gandhi. Against the tide. (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987).

Javed Majeed, Autobiography, Travel and Postnational Identity (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) Chs 1-3, 6-7.

Supplementary Reading

Daniele Conversi, 'Reassessing current theories of nationalism: nationalism as boundary maintenance and creation', Nationalism and ethnic politics 1,1 (1995) 73-85.

Session 11

Tradition and modernity in India. SET TEXT: R.K. Narayan, The Painter of Signs (1976)

[1.04.09]

Important Reading

A.S. Knippling, 'R.K. Narayan, Raja Rao and modern English discourse in colonial India', Modern Fiction Studies 39, 1 (1993) pp. 169-86.

William Walsh, R.K. Narayan. A critical appreciation (Heinemann: London, 1982) Chapter 6

Supplementary Reading

Chitra Sankaran, The myth connection. The use of Hindu mythology in some novels of Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan (Ahmedabad: Allied Publishers, 1993).

Ramesh Dayante, 'The hothouse cactus: a note on R.K. Narayan's "The Painter of Signs"', in S. Pandey and R.Raja Rao, The image of India in the Indian novel in English 1960-1985 (Sangam books, 1993).

Session 12

Magical realism and the postcolonial. SET TEXT: Salman Rushdie's Shame (1981).

[22.04.09]

Important Reading

Ralph Crane, Inventing India: A History of India in English-Language fiction (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1992).

M.D. Fletcher, Reading Rushdie - perspectives on the fiction of Salman Rushdie (Amsterdam and Atlanta GA: Editions Rodop B.V, 1994).

Supplementary Reading

Timothy Brennan, Salman Rushdie and the third world. Myths of the nation (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1999).

Aruna Srivastava, 'The Empire writes back: language and history in Shame and Midnight's Children,' Ariel (1989) 20: 62-77.

Session 13

On the periphery of the postcolonial. SET TEXT: Anita Desai, Baumgartner's Bombay (1988)

[29.04.09]

Important Reading

Elaine Y.L Ho, 'The languages of identity in Anita Desai's, Baumgartner's Bombay', World literature written in English, 32, 1 (1992) pp. 96-106.

Judie Newman, "'Babytalk": Anita Desai's "Baumgartner's Bombay"', The ballistic bard: postcolonial fictions (London: Arnold, 1995) Chapter 4.

Judie Newman, 'History and letters: Anita Desai's "Baumgartner's Bombay"', World literature written in English, 30, 1 (Spring 1990) pp. 37-46.

Supplementary Reading

Maria Fernandes, 'The outer weather in Anita Desai's novels', in Indian English fiction 1980-90: an assessment, ed. Nilufer E. Bharucha and Vilas Sarang (New Delhi: B.R. Publishers, 1994) pp. 169-83.

Shahani Roshan, 'On the periphery of the city', in Indian English fiction 1980-90: an assessment, ed. Nilufer E. Bharucha and Vilas Sarang (New Delhi: B.R. Publishers, 1994) pp. 33-45.

Salman Rushdie, 'Anita Desai', in Imaginary homelands. Essays and criticism 1981-1991 (London: Granta books and Penguin) pp. 71-4.

Ramesh Shrivastava, ed. Perspectives on Anita Desai (New Delhi: Vimal, 1984).

Session 14

HAND IN FINAL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS &

[6.05.09]

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING

Session 15

HANDING BACK OF FINAL COURSE ASSIGNMENTS WITH DETIALED COMMENTS FROM INSTRUCTOR IN ONE TO ONE MEETINGS

[13.05.09]

Classroom Etiquette

Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 6 Bedford Square or at Birkbeck College. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular Activities

N/A

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

N/A