

Ambedkar University Delhi
Course Outline
Monsoon Semester (August-December 2018)

School:	School of Letters
Programme with title:	MA English
Semester to which offered:	II and IV
Course Title:	Postcolonial Theory and Practice
Course Code:	SOL2EN311
Credits:	4 Credits
Type of Course:	
Compulsory:	
Elective:	Yes

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team:	Vikram Singh Thakur
Email of course coordinator:	vikram@aud.ac.in
Pre-requisites:	None

Aim: The course aims to introduce students to some of the major issues and themes of postcolonial theory. The course may revolve around the following themes: empire, language, hybridity and mimicry, cultural identity and diaspora, representation and resistance. As the title of the course suggests, the course aims not only to introduce students to these theoretical concepts but also make them examine various literary and cultural texts using these critical concepts. A range of literary, cultural and theoretical texts from India, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America may be included. In

addition to the texts from various postcolonial societies, the course may also include more canonical English texts to be studied under the lens of postcolonial theory.

Brief description of modules:

Module 1 | INTRODUCING THE COLONIAL & POST(-)COLONIAL

This module will introduce students to Postcolonial Studies. Besides exploring the objectives and scope of this area of study the module will also take up basic terms like colonialism, imperialism and post-colonialism on which subsequent modules are based.

Module 2 | RE-THINKING/RE-WRITING ENGLISH LITERATURE

This module looks at the question of English language and literary studies in postcolonial societies. Beyond the question of language that the post-colonial writers have fiercely debated this module will also look at how post-colonial writers have responded to some literary texts which they have found to be embedded in colonialist ideology.

Module 3 | NATION AND NATIONALISM

Drawing on the theoretical formulations of Ernest Renan, Ernest Gellner, Benedict Anderson, Frantz Fanon and Partha Chatterjee this module will look at the question of 'nation' and 'nationalism' as significant categories for post-colonial societies. This module will also look at how 'cultural nationalism' has been appropriated in post-colonial societies and as it emerged in their literatures.

Module 4 | CULTURAL IDENTITY AND DIASPORA

This module will look at an important constituent of post-colonial cultures viz. diaspora and identity formation. Drawing on theoretical insights of scholars like Stuart Hall, Homi Bhabha and Vijay Mishra the module will examine cultural identities as fluid rather than stable categories.

Indicative Reading List:

Césaire, Aimé. "Discourse on Colonialism". Translated by Joan Pinkham. *Monthly Review*

Press: New York and London, 1972.

Said, Edward. "Introduction". *Orientalism*. London: Routledge, 1978.

Ray, Satyajit (dir.) *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* (The Chess Players), Big Home and Music

Entertainment 2012, 1977.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, "The Quest for Relevance". *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in*

African Literature. London: James Currey, 1981.

Viswanathan, Gauri. "The Beginnings of English Literary Studies". *Oxford Literary Review*

9(1–2): 2–26.

Macaulay, T. B. “Minute on Indian Education”. *Selected Writings*. Eds. J. Clive and T. Pinney. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972 (1835).

Raja Rao, “Foreword”, *Kanthapura*. Delhi: OUP, 1974.

Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1968.

Ernst Renan, “What is a Nation?” *Nation and Narration*. Ed. Homi K Bhabha. London: Routledge, 1990 (1882).

Benedict Anderson, from *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, London and New York: Verso, 1983.

Chatterjee, Partha. “Nationalism as a Problem”. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse*, Tokyo and London: Zed Books for United Nations University, 1986.

Frantz Fanon, “On National Culture”. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre. Trans. Constance Farrington (1963), 1st Evergreen Edn, New York: Grove Press, 1991.

Karnad, Girish, *Hayavadana*. Chennai: Oxford University Press, 1975.

Hall, Stuart. “Cultural Identity and Diaspora””. *Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. Ed. Padmini Mongia. London: Arnold, 1996.

Bhabha, Homi K. “Of Mimicry and Men: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse”, *October* 28 (1984).

Rushdie, Salman. “Imaginary Homelands”. *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism, 1981-1991*. 1st American ed. London: [New York, N.Y., U.S.A.]: Granta Books ; In association with Viking, 1991.

Brathwaite, Edward Kamau. "Creolization in Jamaica". *The Development of Creole Society in Jamaica 1770–1820* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971.

Mishra, Vijay, "The Diasporic Imaginary: Theorising the Indian Diaspora". *Textual Practice* 10.3 (1996).

NOTE: In addition there will be some more readings given to students for the seminar.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S. No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Seminar	After Module 2,3 &4	30%
2	Mid-semester exam	Mid October	30%
3	Term paper	End of November	40%