

The Postcolonial Metropole
SYLLABUS –WINTER TERM 2, 2014-15

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Course meets: MWF 12 -1pm in Brock Hall Annex (BRKX) 2365
 Office hours: W 10:00 -11:50 am and by appointment

Course Description:

This course observes the history of migration to London as a [former] center of empire, and how minority, exilic and diasporic communities have contributed to remaking the city which exercised colonial power during its period of empire. We examine works which represent how a minority presence disrupts official discourses, and opens enclaves of new shared practices. We work with a variety of media by writers and producers with origins in the Maghreb or sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Ireland, South Asia and elsewhere. This course develops an understanding of the economy of collective world-making as a potentially democratic process, the cultural imaginary as formed and released or "unsubjugated" from below.

Texts

Jean Rhys. *Voyage in the Dark*.
 Sam Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*.
 Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.
 Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*.
 Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.
 Bernardine Evaristo. *The Emperor's Babe*.
 Linton Kwesi Johnson. *Mi Revalueshanary Fren*.
 Other texts available on Connect.

Films (an optional screening of each film will be offered outside of our regular class meeting time; films may also be available from a library, Netflix or another streaming service)

Trainspotting (1996, Dir. Danny Boyle)
Hunger (2008, Dir. Steve McQueen)
Dirty Pretty Things (2002. Dir. Stephen Frears)

Requirements and Grading

In this course, you will read and analyze a range of texts and films which will give you the opportunity to identify, compare, explain and discuss various aspects and issues of urban, minority and postcolonial experience that contribute to the 20th-century literary and social history of Britain and Ireland.

Requirements consist of class participation, reading quizzes, four short issue/analysis papers (500-1000 words) and a final examination. Participation comprises a varied set of activities during class meetings, such as answering questions, speaking during group discussions and giving one prepared solo presentation. I will give brief occasional reading quizzes (answer two out of three factual questions, **no make-ups**), in order to be able to reward you for keeping up with the reading schedule. For your papers, please turn in both a hard copy **and an electronic copy uploaded to our course website on Connect**. That way, if I should lose your paper, we will have another copy that demonstrates you submitted the assignment on time.



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- 20% Participation (including a prepared, brief presentation and reading quizzes)
- 40% Four short papers
- 40% Final examination

Your short papers will follow the following formula: look for an article or essay in a current periodical related to an issue pertaining to postcolonialism, independence, migration or to a minority, diasporic or newcomer community in the U.K. or Ireland. Attach a copy of the original article, which I will read. Your own paper should be an analytical treatment or critique of a development or issue dealt with in the article, which you will connect to one of the texts or films assigned in the course.

CLASS READING SCHEDULE:

Jan 5 – Course Introduction. Louise Bennett, “Colonization in Reverse,” Nissim Ezekiel, “Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa” [projected in class and on Connect].

Jan 7 – George Lamming, “The Occasion for Speaking.” From Ngugi wa Thiong’o, “Decolonizing the Mind.” From Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Jan 9 – **No Class:** In lieu of a class meeting, please read Jean Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark*.

You are also invited to hear my paper today in Session 268 at the MLA Convention, downtown Vancouver ☺

Jan 12 – Jean Rhys. *Voyage in the Dark*.

Jan 14 – Jean Rhys. *Voyage in the Dark*.

Jan. 15 -- Film screening, 4 pm (optional): BUCH D322 - *Trainspotting*

Jan 16 – Discuss *Trainspotting*.

Jan 19 – Sam Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*.

Jan 21 – Sam Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*.

Jan 23 – Sam Selvon. *The Lonely Londoners*. **Paper #1 due by 11:59 pm.**

Jan 26 – Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.

Jan 28 – Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.

Jan 30 – **Presentations.** Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.

Feb 2 – Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.

Feb 4 – Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*.

Feb 6 – **Presentations.** Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, “Why I Choose to Write in Irish: The Corpse That Sits Up and Talks Back.” Patrick Henry Pearse, “Mise Eire.” Eavan Boland, “Mise Eire.”

Feb 9 – **No class: Family Day, UBC holiday**

Feb 11 – Edna O’Brien. “Shovel Kings.”

Feb. 12 --Film screening, 4 pm (optional): BUCH D322 - *Hunger*

Feb 13 – **Presentations.** Discuss *Hunger*. **Paper #2 due by 11:59 pm.**

Feb 16-20 – **No class: Reading Week**

Feb 23 -- Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.

Feb 25 – Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.

Feb 27 – Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.

Mar 2 – Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.



Mar 4 – Andrea Levy. *Small Island*.

Mar 6 – **Presentations.** Salman Rushdie. “Chekov and Zulu.” **Paper #3 due by 11:59 pm.**

Mar 9 – Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*.

Mar 11 – Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*.

Mar 13 – **Presentations.** Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*.

Mar 16 – Derek Walcott. “The Muse of History.” Deleuze and Guattari. “What Is a Minor Literature?”

Mar 18 – Bernardine Evaristo. *The Emperor’s Babe*.

Mar 20 – Bernardine Evaristo. *The Emperor’s Babe*.

Mar 23 – Bernardine Evaristo. *The Emperor’s Babe*.

Mar 25 – Bernardine Evaristo. *The Emperor’s Babe*.

Mar 27 – Linton Kwesi Johnson. *Mi Revalueshanary Fren*.

Mar 30 – Linton Kwesi Johnson. *Mi Revalueshanary Fren*.

Mar 30- Film screening, 4 pm (optional): BUCH D314 - Dirty Pretty Things

Apr 1 -- **Presentations.** Discuss *Dirty Pretty Things*. **Paper #4 due by 11:59 pm.**

Apr 3, 6 – **No class, Good Friday and Easter Monday**

Apr 8 – Discuss papers and issues that have engaged you.

Apr 10 -- Catch-up; final student presentations; final exam review.

Exam period Apr 14-29-- **Final examination, TBA**

The course adheres to the university’s strict rule against plagiarism. *If you represent the words, productions or ideas of anyone else as your own, you become subject to the disciplinary processes of the university concerning plagiarism, and may fail the course or be expelled from the university.* If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism, please ask me (before you submit the assignment).

Anyone with a documented disability is gently encouraged to contact the Access and Diversity Office in Brock Hall, 1203- 1874 East Mall (tele: 604.822.5844) for accommodations and support services. Other helpful programs available to all registered students are the academic services described at <http://students.ubc.ca/success>, and UBC Counselling Services tele: 604.822.3811 or, after hours, the Vancouver Crisis Line, tele: 800.784.2433.

