Core course: Postcolonial Studies

This course introduces and explores theoretical debates concerning colonial and postcolonial cultures and literary texts emerging from these cultures. Rather than taking ‘postcolonial’ as an unproblematic term, the course addresses the intellectual, aesthetic and material stakes involved in its deployment and situates the term in relation to earlier anti-colonial and liberationist formulations. The course will also explore such issues as the historical locations and genealogies of postcolonial theory; anti-colonial and postcolonial nationalisms; postcoloniality and gender; the challenge to historicism; and responses to globalization. In addition to critical readings, we will also be discussing several literary texts and films; viewings will be included as part of the course schedule.

Advance reading
The following offer useful overviews:

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Postcolonial Literatures and The Postcolonial Studies Reader
Elleke Boehmer, Colonial and Postcolonial Literature
Leela Gandhi, Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction
Nicholas Harrison, Postcolonial Criticism
Neil Lazarus, ed. The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies
Ania Loomba, Colonialism/Postcolonialism
Bart Moore-Gilbert, Postcolonial Theory
Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds, Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader
Robert J.C. Young, Postcolonialism. An Historical Introduction and A Very Short Introduction

Other important works include:

Aijaz Ahmad, In Theory
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities
Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization
Crystal Bartolovich and Neil Lazarus, eds. Marxism, Modernity and Postcolonial Studies
Homi Bhabha, The Location of Culture
Homi Bhabha, ed., Nation and Narration
Aimé Césaire, Discourse on Colonialism
Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference
Laura Chrisman, Postcolonial Contraventions
Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth
Mike Featherstone, Scott Lash and Roland Robertson, eds. Global Modernities
Barbara Harlow, Resistance Literature
Anne McClintock, Imperial Leather
Achille Mbembe, On the Postcolony
Neil Lazarus, Nationalism and Cultural Practice in the Postcolonial World
Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *Decolonising the Mind*
Fernando Ortiz, *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*
Benita Parry, *Postcolonial Studies: A Materialist Critique*
Jahan Ramazani, *The Hybrid Muse: Postcolonial Poetry in English*
Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*
Edward Said, *Orientalism*
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *The Post-colonial Critic*
Robert J. C. Young, *White Mythologies: Writing History and the West*

The following journals may also be useful:

*Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*
*ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*
*Journal of Postcolonial Writing*
*Wasafiri*
*Callaloo*
*Research in African Literatures*
*New Formations*
*Postcolonial Studies*
*Postcolonial Text*
*Jouvert*

Primary materials database:

Empire Online, www.empire.amdigital.co.uk (accessible from the university network, or with an Athens password)

This is an extensive collection of primary documents relating to the history of empire which was recently purchased by the university. Document types include journals, letters, government papers, travel writing, memoir, photographs, and illustrations, among others. You are strongly encouraged to consult this resource during the course of your research.