



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

4KP420 Kritik och teori: samtida humanvetenskapliga debatter, 7,5
högskolepoäng

Criticism and Theory: Current debates in the Humanities, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Colonial and postcolonial studies

Subject Group

Cultural Studies

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2019-09-18

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and 90 credits in the humanities or social sciences (including an independent project of at least 15 credits). English B/English 6 or the equivalent

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- account for and critically discuss the main theoretical trends in the development of postcolonial theory,
- identify differences in the use of concepts in different colonial contexts,
- reflect on central concepts in relation to the research plan for their Master's degree project,
- apply theoretical concepts in exercises on the basis of contemporary and historical texts.

Content

This course discusses central theories in the humanities and social sciences, focusing especially on critical theoretical debates decisive for the development of postcolonial theory. The students explore historical and contemporary practices in terms of power structures, dominance and submission in modern times. The students are challenged to understand and relate to complex theories and phenomena such as orientalism, eurocentrism, decolonialism, nationalism and diaspora. The course problematises theoretical concepts such as identity, race and gender.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of seminars.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The course is examined continuously through written assignments and oral presentations in seminars. If a student misses or fails a seminar, the examiner may allow the student to supplement this through a written assignment. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Chakrabarty Dipesh. 2008. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691130019. 301 p.

Fanon, Frantz. 2007. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. New York: Grove Press. ISBN: 0802141323. 233 p.

Gandhi, Leela. 2018. *Postcolonial theory: A critical introduction*. New York: Columbia University Press. (2nd edition) ISBN. 9780231178389. 192 p.

Huggan, Graham. 2009. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism*. London: Routledge. ISBN 9780203498170. 256 p.

Lindqvist, Sven. 2002. *Exterminate all the Brutes, translated from Swedish by Joan Tate*. London: Granta. ISBN: 1862075085. 177 p.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 2003. *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. Durham: Duke University Press. ISBN: 0822330105. 312 p.

Said, Edward. 2003. *Orientalism*. London: Penguin. ISBN: 0141187425 396 p.

Seth, Sanjay. 2014. "The Politics of Knowledge: Or, How to Stop Being Eurocentric." *History Compass*, vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 311–320. 9 p.

Young, Robert. 2003. *Postcolonialism: A very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0192801821. 180 p.