



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

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

4KP420 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 2019-09-18

Revised 2023-06-14 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

### **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 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 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

Achebe, Chinua. 'An Image of Africa.' *Review in African Literatures* vol. 9, no. 1 (1978), pp. 1-15. ISSN: 15272044. (15 pp)

Althusser, Louis. 1970. 'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses.'. In Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan (eds), *Literary Theory: An Anthology*, 3rd Edition. Blackwell, 2017, pp 768-777. ISBN: 1118718313 (9 pp)

'Balani, Sita. 'Sexual Modernity', *Deadly and Slick: Sexual Modernity and the Making of Race*, Verso, 2023, pp 3-19. ISBN 1839761024 (16pp)

Bhabha, Homi. K.. 1985. 'Signs Taken for Wonders.' In Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (eds), *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Routledge 1994, pp. 29-36. ISBN: 0203423062 (8 pp)

Bhambra, Gurminder. 'Postcolonial and Decolonial Dialogues', *Postcolonial Studies* vol. 17, no. 2 (2014) pp. 115-121. ISSN: 14661888. (7 pp)

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. 'Introduction: Intimations of the Planetary.' *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age*. University of Chicago Press, 2021, pp. 1-20. ISBN: 022673305X (20 pp)

Derrida, Jacques. 'Difference' (excerpt). In Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan (eds),

- Literary Theory: An Anthology*, 3rd Edition. Blackwell, 2017, pp. 592-595. ISBN: 1118718313. (3pp)
- Fanon, Frantz. 1963. 'On National Culture' [Excerpt]. In *The Wretched of the Earth*, Richard Philcox (trans), Grove Press, 2004, pp. 155-161. ISBN: 9780802141323 (7pp)
- Fanon, Frantz. 1952. 'The Fact of Blackness.' In Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (eds), *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Routledge, 1994, pp. 323-326. ISBN: 0203423062 (4 pp)
- Foucault, Michel. 1978. 'Right of Death and the Power over Life.' In Timothy Campbell and Adam Sitze (eds), *Biopolitics: a Reader*, Duke University Press, 2013, pp. 41-60. ISBN: 978-0-8223-5335-5. (19pp)
- Federici, Silvia. 2004. 'Colonization and Christianization: Caliban and Witches in the New World.' In *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*. Penguin, 2021, pp. 235 -262. ISBN: 9780241532539 (27 pp)
- Gramsci, Antonio. 'The Intellectuals' (excerpt). In Quentin Hoare et al (eds), *Selections from Prison Notebooks*. Lawrence and Wishart, 2003, pp. 8-13. ISBN: 0853152802 (5pp)
- Guha, Ranajit. 'On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India.' In *Subaltern Studies 1*. Oxford UP, 1982, pp. 1-8. ISBN-13: 978-0195634433 (8 pp)
- Hall, Stuart. 'The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power' (excerpt). In Stuart Hall and Bram Gieben (eds), *Formations of Modernity*. Polity 1992, pp. 201-205. ISBN 0 7456 0960 (4pp)
- Haraway, Donna J.. 'Making Kin: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Cthulucene.' In *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Cthulucene*. Duke, 2016, pp. 99-103. ISBN: 9780822362241 (5pp)
- Ludden, David. 'Introduction: A Brief History of Subalternity.' In *Reading Subaltern Studies*. Anthem, 2001, pp. 1-39. ISBN:9781843310594 (39 pp)
- Ludden, David. 'Subaltern Studies.' In *The Encyclopedia of Empire*, Wiley Online, 2016. ISBN: 9781118455074 (3pp)
- Marx, Karl. 1867. 'The Secret of Primitive Accumulation'. In *Capital*, vol.1. Wordsworth, 2013, pp. 501-504. ISBN: 9781840226997 (4pp)
- Marx, Karl. 1867. 'The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land'. In *Capital*, vol.1. Wordsworth, 2013, pp. 504-513. ISBN: 9781840226997 (9pp)
- Mbembe, Achille. 'Necropolitics', *Public Culture* vol. 15, no.1 (2003): 11-40. ISSN: 15278018 (29 pp)
- Mignolo, Walter D.. 'The Conceptual Triad: Modernity/Coloniality/Decoloniality.' In Walter Mignolo and Catherine E. Walsh, *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. Duke, 2018, pp. 135-153. ISBN 9780822371779 (18 pp)
- Moore, Jason W. 2016. 'Introduction: Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History

and the Crisis or Capitalism'. In Jason W. Moore (ed), *Anthropocene or Capitalocene: Nature, History and the Crisis of Capitalism*. PM Press, pp 1-12. ISBN: 1629632899 (12pp)

Oyewùmí, Oyèrónké. 1997. "Visualizing the Body: Western Theories and African Subjects'. In *The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses*, University of Minnesota press, 1997, pp.26-55. ISBN 9780816685905 (30pp)

Parry, Benita. 'The Institutionalization of Postcolonial Studies'. In Neil Lazarus (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 66-80. ISBN 9780511606755 (14pp).

Quijano, Anibal. 'Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America.' *International Sociology* vol.15, no 2 (2000), p.215-232. ISSN: 14617242 (18pp)

Rodney, Walter. 'Africa's Contribution to European to European Capitalist Development – The Precolonial Period.' In *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Verso, 2018, pp 75 -87. ISBN 9781788731195 (13pp)

Said, Edward. 1978. 'Orientalism.' In Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (eds), *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Routledge, 1994, pp. 87-91. ISBN: 0203423062 (4 pages)

Spivak, Gayatri. 1988. 'Can the Subaltern Speak?.' In Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin (eds), *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Routledge, 1994, pp 24-28. ISBN: 0203423062 (4 pages)