



COURSE TITLE: Topics in Theoretical and Cultural Studies (Poststructuralism & Postcolonialism)			
Course Number	ENGL517.03		FALL 2020
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Clara A.B. Joseph	Email	cjoseph@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	All course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 24 hours on all business days.		
Office Hours	Mondays and Wednesdays 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM or by appointment		
Office Location	Zoom		
Class Dates/Times/Location	Mondays 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM Zoom		

### Course description

This course will provide an in-depth study of selected texts in poststructuralism and postcolonialism. Both poststructuralism and postcolonialism have been shaped by each other and preceding movements, for instance, Formalism and Marxism. Poststructuralism and postcolonialism have also, in turn, influenced several other related fields and theories, such as Ecocriticism, Gender studies, and Digital Humanities. Students will, therefore, read primary sources to understand, interpret, and discern premises and problems in literary and cultural theory and, importantly, learn how to derive theoretical methodologies for writing about literary and cultural texts.

Readings would cover some of the well-known theorists but also interdisciplinary sources that adopt poststructuralism and postcolonialism to make sense of processes outside literary studies. Literary anthologies will accompany the theoretical readings to allow students to easily apply theories and practice formulating methods of reading and interpreting.

Students are required to come to class having read the assigned materials and prepared to engage with the readings.

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the knowledge and skills to read and critique dense theoretical sources, apply the sources to literary and cultural texts, and prepare a theoretical framework.

### Course Format

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. Online teaching and learning will occur synchronously, that is, in real time. This means, the class will meet on Zoom at the stipulated time. Students are expected to have read assigned texts in preparation for each class. The Zoom meetings will be recorded so that you can refer to them later.

**Texts and readings:** Sources will be available through D2L, subject to copyright permissions. The following is a selection of the sources.

Brundage, Anthony. *Going to the Sources: A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2017. [selected chapters]

Gandhi, M.K. *Indian Home Rule*.

Griffin, Gabriele. Ed. *Research Methods for English Studies*. Second Edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013. [selected chapters]

Pittenger, L.A. ed. *Short-Stories*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914.

Achebe, Chinua. "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*." *The Massachusetts Review*, vol 57, no. 1, Spring 2016, pp. 14-27.

Bhabha, Homi K. "Signs Taken for Wonders: Questions of Ambivalence and Authority Under a Tree Outside Delhi, May 1817." *Critical Inquiry* 12.1 (1985): 144-65.

Davis, Lennard J. "The Value of Teaching from a Racist Classic." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 19, 2006, pp. B9-B10.

Derrida, Jacques. "HOSTIPITALITY." *ANGELAKI: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, vol. 5, no. 3, December 2000, pp. 3-19

Fanon, Frantz. "The Fact of Blackness." *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 1967, pp. 109-140.

Hall, Stuart. "Representation, meaning and language." *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. Edited by Stuart Hall, London: SAGE Publications and the Open University, 1997, pp. 15-30.

Harpham, Geoffrey Galt. "The Posthuman: Without It, Nothing Else Is Possible." *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2012, pp. 101-112.

Heidegger, Martin. "The Thing." *Poetry, Language, Thought*. Translated by Albert Hofstadter, 1975 [1971], pp. 161-184.

Levinas, Emmanuel. "Reflections on the Philosophy of Hitlerism." Translated by Sean Hand. *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 17, no. 1, 1990, pp. 63-71.

Nayar, Pramod K. "Introduction," *Postcolonial Studies: An Anthology*. Chichester, West Sussex, England: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016. Web.

Parel, Anthony J. "Arts and Gandhi's Political Philosophy." *Pax Gandhiana: The Political Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi*. Oxford Scholarship Online, 2016.

Parry, Benita. "The Institutionalization of Postcolonial Studies." *Postcolonial Literary Studies*. Edited by Neil Lazarus. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 66-80.

Said, Edward. "Speaking Truth to Power." *Representations of the Intellectual*. New York: Vintage Books, 1996, pp. 85-102.

Williams, James. "Introduction: What is Poststructuralism?" *Understanding Poststructuralism*. Durham, US: Routledge, 2014, pp. 1-24.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Essay One (1000 word) 25%

Essay Two (2200 words) 45%

Group Presentation – 20% (There will be no formal written component; however, students are encouraged to submit evidence of work leading up to the presentation)

Participation (10%)

### **Participation**

This course provides opportunities for zoom participation. If you don't believe you have contributed sufficiently in zoom discussions, you can complement with D2L discussions. Marks will be awarded for the following:

1. Evidence of a deep understanding of assigned readings.
2. Taking intelligible notes during lectures and discussions.
3. Regular and quality submission of in-class assignments.
4. Active and quality participation in discussions and group activities.
5. Successful participation in random write-ups, quizzes, and debates based on lecture material and the readings.
6. Initiative in bringing to the attention of the class relevant popular and academic information.
7. Ability to interact with the class in a professional and positive manner.

### **Notes**

- There is no registrar-scheduled examination for this course.
- There are no extra-credit or make-up assignments for this course.
- All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.
- Assignments must be emailed as a Word document to the instructor at [cjoseph@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjoseph@ucalgary.ca) before the midnight of the due date. The file name must be according to the following format: for example, LastnameFirstname\_ENGL517EssayOne\_Oct23-2020. Students must always copy (cc) themselves on any assignment emailed to the instructor, and save the item until final results are received from the registrar's office.
- Late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade for each business day late (e.g. A+ becomes an A).

### **Learning Technologies and Requirements**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking this course are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);

- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

### **Conduct**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices In Class**

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

### **Guidelines for Zoom Sessions**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities.

Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit:

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/> .

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **Grading system:**

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

Actual numerical grades obtained, not their letter grade or percentage equivalent, will be used in calculating the final grade. Letter grades for assignments will be converted into numerical values using the scale above (at the instructor's discretion) in order to calculate the final course grade.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

### **Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### **Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

### **English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

### **Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### **Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboyd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyd@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

**Student Accommodations:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

[ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

### **\*RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

### **\*INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **\*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **\*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **\*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

#### **\*Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

#### **\*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

### **\*Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

### **\*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI Surveys."

### **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,



- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html> "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.