

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	Department of Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	MA International Relations
<b>Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Imperialism and Postcolonialism
<b>Course Code:</b>	INR 7112
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Paul Rekret
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:	
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall, Spring
<b>Credits:</b>	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course seeks to examine the significance of empire and how and why empires are constructed. Key arguments by theorists of postcolonialism and scholars of empire will be discussed, and their implications assessed. A particular focus will be on particular postcolonial theory which has offered some of the most profound critiques of Western modernity's self-representations and claims to truth and progress. Such critiques have significant potential to reconstruct dominant understandings of history, development, gender, social change and emancipation. Thinkers studied might include Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Aijaz Ahmad and Leopold Senghor. Themes studied might include processes of imperial expansion, key actors, gender and sexual politics, representation, minorities in Europe and diaspora, the role of religion, decolonisation, resistance, co-operation and liberation. This course may be co-taught with HST6225 Culture, Power, and Empire.

### **Prerequisites:**

MA International Relations students.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To extend the understanding of students with regard to the theoretical and practical implications of postcolonial and historical critiques of progress, truth, equality and imperialism.
- Understanding different approaches to culture, nationalism, multiculturalism, migration, gender and race in the context of post-colonial societies.

- To critically examine the assumptions, theories and practices that have defined traditional studies of relations between developed and underdeveloped states, and the alternative conceptualisation provided by concepts such as identity, culture, power, resistance and revolution
- To assess the significance of alternative epistemological positions that provide the context for theory construction, research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

A, B, D, F, G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of key texts, thinkers and debates in the study of security and role of images, emotions, and bodies in global politics.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in post-colonial and imperial theory, and their relevance to scholarship and real-life praxis
- Demonstrate the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, postcolonial and other forms of empire theory
- Design and undertake substantial investigations addressing key theories in the subject area
- Demonstrate the ability to exercise initiative in organising and pursuing projects and assignments in regard to the study of imperialism and postcolonial theory.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract ideas and diverse information in the context of global governance

### **Indicative Content:**

- Ontological Security
- Theories of empire
- Imperial actors and processes
- Analysis of concepts, such as: orientalism, diaspora and subalternity
- Examination of postcolonial criticisms of Western self-representations
- Key critics of postcolonial theory
- Resistance to empire from within and without

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

### **Teaching Methodology:**

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for

the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Young R. C. 2015. *Empire, Colony, Postcolony: A Short History* Wiley
- Loomba, A. 2015 *Colonialism/Postcolonialism (The New Critical Idiom)*
- Chibber, Vivek *Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital*. London: Verso, 2013.
- Streets-Salter, Heather & Getz, Trevor R., *Empires and Colonies in the Modern World. A Global Perspective*. Oxford. OUP 2016.
- Bush, Barbara, *Imperialism and Postcolonialism*. Harlow: Pearson, 2006
- Howe, Stephen, *Empire. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: OUP, 2002
- Streets-Salter, Heather & Getz, Trevor R., *Empires and Colonies in the Modern World. A Global Perspective*. Oxford. OUP 2016.

**Journals**

**Web Sites and Blogs**

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services