Geography 123:

POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES

Time: M-W: 2 - 3:30
Room: 575 McConne
Office Hours: M: 3:30 - 6 (or by appt.)
551 McConne
E-mail: hart@berkeley.edu

Course Description
The term ‘postcolonial’ is often used descriptively to refer to peoples, states, and societies that have been through a process of formal decolonization. In recent years the term has taken on far more critical meaning in the lively and growing field of ‘postcolonial studies’ that focuses on how processes of colonialism/imperialism continue even after the formal dissolution of empire. Originally associated with literary criticism and cultural studies, postcolonial scholarship is increasingly being pushed to engage with questions of political economy, and with more grounded understandings of transnational power and inequality. Events in the Middle East lend particular urgency to this project – as do recent calls for the overt revival of imperialism.

A central argument of this course is that critical human geography can make important contributions to understandings of the interconnections between forces at play in different parts of the world. Through critical engagement with taken-for-granted concepts of space, place, culture, power, and difference, its purpose is to provide a set of tools for grappling with the conditions in which we find ourselves, and for thinking about the possibilities for social change.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to come to class having read all the readings for that day, and prepared to discuss them. The course requirements will comprise a mid-term, and either a research paper or a final exam. The details and dates of the assignments will be discussed in class.

Readings
The reader for the first half of the course is available at University Copy, 2425 Channing.
Geography 123:
Postcolonial Geographies

Course Outline

8/26: Introduction

I. THE IMPERIAL PRESENT:
Space, Place, Culture, Power, & Difference

8/31: Clashing Cultures and Bloody Borders

9/2–21: Struggles over Geography

9/23–30: Rethinking American Empire: Space, Race, & Gender

II. LIMITS OF EMPIRE:
Anti-Colonial Movements & Postcolonial Imaginations

10/5: The Age of Empire

10/7: C. L. R. James

10/12-14: Fanon

10/19: Cabral

10/21: The Limits of Empire

III. PRODUCING POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES

10/26–8: The New Imperialism?

11/2–4: Contesting Neoliberalism in Bolivia

11/9–16: Oil & the Politics of Extraction

11/18-23: Land & Agrarian Movements

11/30–12/2: Linking Urban and Rural Struggles

12/7: Course review
Required Reading List
(Supplementary readings will be posted on b-space)

I. THE IMPERIAL PRESENT:
Space, Place, Culture, Power, & Difference

8/31: Clashing Cultures and Bloody Borders


http://www.thomaspmbarnett.com/published/pentagonsnewmap.htm

9/2–9/21: Struggles over Geography


9/23 – 9/30:  Rethinking American Empire: Space, Race, & Gender


II. LIMITS OF EMPIRE:

Anti-Colonial Movements & Postcolonial Imaginations

10/5:  The Age of Empire


Newspaper clippings in reader.

10/7:  C. L. R. James

10/12–14: Fanon


10/19: Cabral


10/21: The Limits of Empire
Lugard, Lord Frederick. 1926. The White Man’s Task in Tropical Africa. Foreign Affairs.


III. PRODUCING POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES
(Preliminary: subject to revision)

10/26 – 28: The New Imperialism?


11/2 – 4: Contesting Neoliberalism in Bolivia


11/9 – 16: Oil & the Politics of Extraction (Nigeria)
Delta Force (Video)


Additional readings by Elias Courson who will participate in discussion.

11/18-23: Reclaiming the Land: Land Reforms & Agrarian Movements (Indonesia)


Additional readings by Noer Fauzi who will participate in discussion.
11/30-12/2: **Linking Urban and Rural Struggles**  

Articles from the website of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (Durban Shackdwellers’ Movement) ([http://www.abahlali.org/](http://www.abahlali.org/)):

- S’bu Zikode. The Third Force.
- Nigel Gibson. Is Fanon Relevant?

12/7: **Course Review**