

Geography 123:

POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES

Time: M-W: 2 - 3:30
Room: 575 McCone
Office Hours: M: 3:30 - 6 (or by appt.)
551 McCone
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**
Huntington, S. 1993. The Clash of Civilizations? *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3).

_____. 2000. Why Culture Matters. In *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. New York: Basic Books: xiii-xvi.

Barnett, T. 2003. The Pentagon's New Map. *Esquire*.
<http://www.thomaspmbarnett.com/published/pentagonsnewmap.htm>
- 9/2– 9/21: Struggles over Geography**
Said, E. 2002. The Clash of Definitions. In *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press: 569-590.

_____. 1993. Empire, Geography, and Culture. In *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage Books: 3-14.

Mitchell, T. 2002. McJihad: Islam in the US Gobal Order. *Social Text* 24(1): 1-18.

Mamdani, M. 2002. Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 766-75.

Massey, D. 1994. *Space, Place and Gender*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 146-56; 1-4;

_____. 1995. Places and their Pasts. *History Workshop Journal* 38: 182-192.

Coronil, F. 1996. Beyond Occidentalism: Toward Nonimperial Geohistorical Categories. *Cultural Anthropology*: 51-57; 76-81.

Gregory, D. Geographies, Publics and Politics. Presidential Plenary, "Raising Geography's Profile in Public Debate" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Philadelphia in March 2004.

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

Bender, T. 2006. *A Nation among Nations: America's Place in World History*. New York: Hill & Wang: Introduction & Chapter 4.

Chukwudi Eze, E. 1997. *Race and the Enlightenment*. Oxford: Blackwell: 1-9.

Jefferson, T. [orig. 1787] "The Difference is Fixed in Nature" from *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Reprinted in Eze): 95-108.

Independent Television Service. 2003. *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. Episode 2, "The Stories we Tell." (Video)

Bederman, G. 1995. *Manliness & Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: Chapters 1& 5.

II. LIMITS OF EMPIRE:

Anti-Colonial Movements & Postcolonial Imaginations

10/5: The Age of Empire

Ferguson, Niall. 2002. *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*. New York: Basic Books: xii-xxix; 358-370.

Cooper, F. 2006. Modernizing Colonialism and the Limits of Empire. In C. Calhoun et al (eds) *Lessons of Empire: Imperial Histories & American Power*. New York: The New Press: 63-72.

Newspaper clippings in reader.

10/7: C. L. R. James

James, C.L.R. 1963 [orig. 1938] *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. New York: Vintage Books: Preface to First Edition, and Appendix.

Trouillot, M-R. 1995. An Unthinkable History: The Haitian Revolution as a Non-Event. In *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press: 70-107.

10/12–14: Fanon

Gibson, N. 2003. *Fanon: The Postcolonial Imagination*. Cambridge: Polity Press: 1-14; 177-205.

Fanon, F. 1963. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press: 35-43; 92-156; 200-205.

10/19: Cabral

Cabral, A. 1973. National Liberation and Culture. In *Return to the Source: Selected Speeches of Amilcar Cabral*. New York: Monthly Review Press: 39-56.

Davidson, A. 1984. Gramsci, the Peasantry, and Popular Culture. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 11(4): 139-54.

10/21: The Limits of Empire

Lugard, Lord Frederick. 1926. The White Man's Task in Tropical Africa. *Foreign Affairs*.

Berry, S. 1993. Hegemony on a Shoestring. In *No Condition is Permanent*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press: Ch. 2.

III. PRODUCING POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES

(Preliminary: subject to revision)

10/26 – 28: The New Imperialism?

Harvey, David. 2004. The New Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession. In L. Panitch and C. Leys (eds) *The New Imperial Challenge*. London: Merlin Press.

Block, F. 2001. Introduction to the new edition of Karl Polanyi *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Finnegan, William. 2003. The Economics of Empire: Notes on the Washington Consensus. *Harper's Magazine*: May: 41-54; plus news clippings on Bolivia.

11/2 – 4: Contesting Neoliberalism in Bolivia

Hale, Charles. 2004. Rethinking Indigenous Politics in the Era of "*Indio Permitido*". *NACLA Report on the Americas* 38(2): 16-20.

Postero, Nancy Grey. 2007. *Now We Are Citizens: Indigenous Politics in Postmulticultural Bolivia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

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

Delta Force (Video)

Watts, Michael. 2002. Petro-Violence: Community, Extraction and the Political Ecology of a Mythic Commodity. In N. Peluso and M. Watts (eds) *Violent Environments*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Sawyer, S. 2004. *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*. Durham: Duke University Press: 1-23.

Additional readings by Elias Courson who will participate in discussion.

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

Ladejinsky, Wolf. 1950. "Too Late to Save Asia?" in L. Walinsky (ed) *Land Reform as Unfinished Business: The Selected Papers of Wolf Ladejinsky*. Oxford University Press: 130-135.

Turner, Sarah and Dominique Caouette. 2009. "Agrarian Angst: Rural Resistance in Southeast Asia", *Geography Compass* 3/3 (2009): 950-975

Tuong, Vu. 2009. "Indonesia's Agrarian Movement: Anti-capitalism at a crossroad." In *Agrarian Angst and Rural Resistance in Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Edited by Sarah Turner, and Dominique Caouette. London, Routledge. Pp. 180-205.

Suraya Afiff, Noer Fauzi, Gillian Hart, Lungisile Ntsebeza, and Nancy Peluso, "Redefining Agrarian Power: Resurgent Agrarian Movements in West Java, Indonesia" (September 28, 2005). Center for Southeast Asia Studies. Paper CSEASWP2-05.

Additional readings by Noer Fauzi who will participate in discussion.

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

Hart, Gillian. 2006. Denaturalizing Dispossession: Critical Ethnography in the Age of Resurgent Imperialism. *Antipode* 38(5).

Articles from the website of the Abahlali baseMjondolo (Durban Shackdwellers' Movement) (<http://www.abahlali.org/>):

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

12/7: Course Review