

The New Post-Coloniality: Overcoming the West
CPLS G6160, Spring 2005
Wed. 2:10 – 4:00
IAB 1219

Instructors:

Catharine Nepomnyashchy
cn29@columbia.edu
Tel: 212-854-6213
Office: 1214 IAB

Charles K. Armstrong
cra10@columbia.edu
Tel: 212-854-1721
Office: 930 IAB

Description:

Postcolonial studies started with a South Asia model. This model needs to be displaced, expanded, and altered with reference to other “colonial” histories and spaces. This seminar will approach such an intersectional project with reference particularly to Eastern Asia and the post-Soviet world. Through the exploration of texts from literature, literary theory, history, and the social sciences, the course addresses relations and representations of power and inequality across space and time.

Requirements:

- A one-page response to each week’s readings on the Courseworks website.
- Leading at least one class discussion.
- A 20-25 page paper building on the student’s class presentation

Readings:

The following required books will be available for purchase at Labyrinth Books as well as on Reserve in Butler Library:

- Anthony Pagden, *Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration, and Conquest, from Greece to the Present*
- Roland Barthes, *Empire of Signs*
- Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*
- Junichiro Tanizaki, *Some Prefer Nettles*
- Valentin Kataev, *Time, Forward!* (out of print, purchase new or used at amazon.com or borrow at library) **OR** Ding Ling, *The Sun Shines over the Sangkan River*
- Partha Chatterjee, *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse*
- Victor Pelevin, *Buddha’s Little Finger*
- Tatiana Tolstaya, *The Slynx*

Journal articles, book chapters and essays will be available on Courseworks.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1. Course Introduction

Week 2. What is Post-Coloniality?

Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, edited by Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, c1988).

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography," *Selected Subaltern Studies*, edited by Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988).

Homi Bhabha, "Narrating the Nation," *Nation and Narration*, edited by Homi K. Bhabha (New York: Routledge, 1990).

Homi Bhabha, "DissemiNation: Time, Narrative and the Margins of the Modern Nation," *The Location of Culture* (New York: Routledge, 1994). pp.139-170.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History," *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000).

David Ludden, "Introduction: A Brief History of Subalternity," *Reading Subaltern Studies Critical History, Contested Meaning and the Globalization of South Asia* (London: Anthem, 2002)

Week 3: Defining the Territory

Anthony Pagden, *Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration, and Conquest, from Greece to the Present*

Carl E. Pletsch, "The Three Worlds, or the Division of Social Scientific Labor, circa 1950-1975," *Comp. Studies in Society and History* 23 (4), October 1981: 565-590.

David Chioni Moore, "Is the Post- in Post-colonial the Post- in Post-Soviet? Toward a Global Postcolonial Critique," *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 116, no. 1 (2001 Jan): p. 111-28

Arif Dirlik, "The Postcolonial Aura," *Dangerous Liaisons: gender, nations, and postcolonial*

perspectives, edited by Anne McClintock, Aamir Mufti, Ella Shohat (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997).

Week 4: Orientalism of the West

Edward Said, "Introduction," *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, c1994).

Roland Barthes, *Empire of Signs*

George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947).

Alexander Pushkin, "The Fountain of Bakhchisarai," *Collected Narrative and Lyrical Poetry* (Ann Arbor: Ardis, c1984).

Week 5: Orientalism of the East I

Mark Bassin, "Asia," *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture*, edited by Nicholas Rzhevsky (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Alexander Blok, "The Scythians," *The Twelve and The Scythians*, translated by Jack Lindsay (West Nyack, NY: Journeyman Press, 1982).

Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*

Week 6: Orientalism of the East II

Okakura Kakuzo, *The Ideals of the East, with Special Reference to the Art of Japan* (Rutland, Vt.: C. E. Tuttle Co., 1970), pp. ix-22.

Harry Harootunian and Tetsuo Najita, "The Japanese Revolt against the West: Political and Cultural Criticism in the Twentieth Century," in *Cambridge History of Japan*, vol. 6

Junichiro Tanizaki, *Some Prefer Nettles*, trans. Edward G. Seidensticker (New York: Vintage, 1995 [1955]).

Week 7: Socialist Realism: An Alternative Modernity?

Valentin Kataev, *Time, Forward!*

OR

Ding Ling, *The Sun Shines over the Sangkan River*

Week 8: Anti-colonial Empires?

Joseph Stalin, from *The National Question*

Fazil Iskander, "Prince Oldenburgsky," "The Story of the Prayer Tree," "Tali, Miracle of Chegem," *Sandro of Chegem*, translated by Susan Brownsberger (New York: Vintage Books, 1983).

Tashi Pelden, "Tomorrow's Weather will be Better," *Manoa* 12.2 (2000): 152-161

Tashi Dawa, "The Glory of the Wind Horse"

Dondrup Gyal, "A Threadlike Path"

Week 9. Nationalisms

Partha Chatterjee, *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).

Ho Chi Minh, "The Path that Led Me to Leninism," Jawaharlal Nehru, "The Importance of the National Idea," and Frantz Fanon, "Algeria Unveiled," *Decolonization: Perspectives from Now and Then*, edited by Prasenjit Duara (New York: Routledge, 2004).

Week 10: Diaspora, Globality, and the City

Saskia Sassen, "Introduction," *Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, c1991).

Olga Bakich, "Emigré Identity: The Case of Harbin," Sabine Breuillard, "General V.A. Kislitsin: From Russian Monarchism to the Spirit of Bushido," *Harbin and Manchuria: Place, Space, and Identity*, edited by Thomas Lahusen, special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly* vol. 99, no. 1 (Winter 2000)

Svetlana Boym, "Moscow, the Russian Rome," *The Future of Nostalgia* (New York: Basic Books, 2001).

Zinovy Zinik, "The Refugee," *Mind the Doors* (New York: Context Books, 2001)

Week 11: Global Empire

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. "The Dialectics of Colonial Sovereignty," and "Imperial Sovereignty," *Empire*. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000).

Timothy Brennan, "The Italian Ideology," Alex Callinicos, "Toni Negri in Perspective," *Debating Empire*, edited by Gopal Balakrishnan (New York: Verso, 2003).

Zbigniew Herbert, "Report from the Besieged City," *Report from the Besieged City & Other Poems* (New York: Ecco Press, 1985).

Gary Shteyngart, "Shylock on the Neva," *New Yorker*, (Sept. 2, 2002)
http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/content/?020902fi_fiction

Week 12: Glocal Cultures, Global Resistances

Victor Pelevin, *Buddha's Little Finger*

Week 13: Ruins of Theory and the End of Utopias

Georg Simmel, "The Ruin," from *Essays on Sociology, Philosophy and Aesthetics* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965).

David Lodge, "Goodbye to All That," *The New York Review of Books*, Volume 51, Number 9, May 27, 2004 (Review of Terry Eagleton, *After Theory*)
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/17132?email>

Tatiana Tolstaya, *The Slynx*

Week 14: Conclusion