Instructor: Shona N Jackson
Course: 379
Title: Postcolonial Studies

Description: Between the late 15th century and the early 20th century most of the world fell under the political and economic control of a handful of European countries. The post WWII period saw the rise of nationalism in the “third world” and the move toward independence by India and many African, and Caribbean nations. The term ‘postcolonial’ typically refers to the period after the end of formal colonizations such as by England, France, Spain, Belgium, etc. It concerns the condition of societies and peoples after they have achieved independence, by peaceful or other means, from a colonial power. The end of formal colonial rule, however, has left unaltered or intensified certain forms of domination, especially economic and cultural ones. Further, countries such as Puerto Rico and Martinique, have not achieved independence but neither can they be thought of strictly or even equally as colonial possessions. Additionally, the United States, Africa, and Latin America--which achieved independence in the 19th century--cannot be said to be equally ‘postcolonial’. This class will introduce you to the key terms, themes and debates within postcolonial studies through a wide range of literature, film, speeches, and other documents.