

Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Nandini Bhattacharya

Course: ENGL/AFST 379

Title: Postcolonial Literatures

Description: An exploration and interrogation of colonialism and literatures of decolonized areas of the world.

Considering how or if Postcolonial is not “post-colonial.” It is not only what comes after empire. It has its own zeitgeist.

Considering how or if Diaspora only means scattered. Diasporic and postcolonial are partially overlapping categories.

Considering how or if Indigenous means native. How can literature be native and yet postcolonial?

Considering how or if islands and mainland have distinctly divergent colonial and postcolonial lives.

Achieving cultural competence or even fluency in knowing and understanding world history as thesis, antithesis and synthesis: colonialism led to anticolonialism and then to postcolonial world. The importance of this history is to be emphasized.

Proposed Readings: Possibly:

Adichie, Chimamanda. *Americanah*.

Naipaul, V. S. *A House for Mr. Biswas*.

Orange, Tommy. *There, There*.

Roy, Arundhati. *God of Small Things*.

Thiong'o, Ngugi Wa. *The River Between*.