

Postcolonial Studies (K001271)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Bogaert, Koenraad

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Political Science\)](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Empire, Settler Colonialism, Capitalism, Land, Primitive Accumulation, Genocide, Labor, Slavery, Whiteness, Race, Privilege, Class, Gender, Patriarchy, Modernity, Hegemony, Liberalism, Orientalism, Eurocentrism, Culture, Nationalism, Violence, Political Economy, Development, Third World, Liberation, Resistance, Solidarity, Abolition, Feminism, Sexual Politics, Intersectionality, Decolonization, Revolution

Position of the course

This seminar begins with a seemingly straightforward question: What is colonialism? And how, more specifically, is colonialism, in its various reiterations and forms, an active and destructive force in the present? Taking up various intellectual approaches –including indigenous, feminist, anti-capitalist and anti-racist knowledges—this seminar introduces key concepts and lines of inquiry pursued by anticolonial, postcolonial and decolonial studies, all with an eye to the political-theoretical stakes of these debates. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course explores material and symbolic sites where colonialism, in its articulations with empire and capitalism, is practiced and experienced as oppressive social constructions of class, gender, race, and sexuality. Primacy is given to voices/theories/methods that question the world as *we know it* and that are engaged in unsettling the post/colonial present, both in theory and practice

Contents

Drawing upon readings, film screenings, class discussions guest lectures, and fieldtrips, the seminar will study the ways colonialism invariably materializes as dispossession through economic, political, social and cultural processes in both the Global South and the Global North. The course will be divided into three parts. We begin by engaging key theoretical approaches to colonialism, including feminist, Indigenous, antiracist, and political economic approaches. Next, we consider a range of sites of colonial and imperial formation, including land, territory, nature, the body, sexuality, race, and gender. In the third part of the course we focus on forms of resistance, resurgence, and decolonization, as well as emerging scholarship that both questions the limits of past approaches to the study of colonialism and aims to conceptualize imperial, colonial, capitalist and decolonizing processes in new ways.

(Please note that the program and suggested authors below are for reference only and thus subject to change. Moreover, the content can also be adapted according to the number of enrolled students and the education rules regarding Covid 19)

Seminars

1. Locating Post/Colonialism (Bell Hooks, Augusto Boal, Decolonize All Things)
2. Imperial Histories and Geographies (Patrick Wolfe, Jody Byrd, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Vladimir Lenin, Giovanni Arrighi...)
3. From Slavery to Mass Incarceration (W. E. B. Du Bois, Lisa Lowe, Angela Davis, Michelle Alexandre, Orlando Patterson...)
4. Colonialism from an anti-colonial perspective (Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Audra Simpson, Mahmood Mamdani, Albert Memmi...)
5. Colonial Modernities (Dipesh Chakrabarty, Timothy Mitchell, Maria Lugones, Edward Said, Antonio Gramsci, Raymond Williams...)
6. White innocence and blackness (Frantz Fanon, Gloria Wekker, George Lipsitz, Hortense Spillers, Katherine McKittrick...)
7. Patriarchy, Primitive Accumulation and Feminist Critiques (Maria Mies, Silvia Federici, Silvia, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Sara Ahmed, Andrea Smith, ...)
8. The logics of Racial Capitalism (Cedric J. Robinson, Glen Sean Coulthard, Angela Davis, Himani Bannerji, Paula Chakravartty and Denise Ferreira Da Silva, Ikyo Day...)
9. Decolonization and liberation in practice (Eve Tuck and Yang K. Wayne, Ramón Grosfoguel, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Maria Lugones, Gibson-Graham, Lauren Berlant, Robin D.G. Kelley, ...)

Fieldtrips

1. Memory and Colonial Amnesia at Home
2. Intersectionality and Social Justice: Activists Repertoires

Guest Lectures

To be confirmed

Initial competences

Academic level of thinking and working, as proven by the successful completion of a Bachelor in Social Sciences, demonstrating that the student has acquired a primary academic framework that enables him/her to study post/colonial studies in a thorough and scientifically sound manner.

Final competences

- 1 Understanding and ability to make a critical comparison of theoretical concepts and theories of post-colonial studies
- 2 Understanding of post/colonial material and discursive constructions and formations
- 3 Understanding of the dialectical relation between colonialism and capitalism
- 4 Ability to apply critical post/colonial insights and methods in the interpretation and understanding of contemporary social, political and cultural processes in the Global South and North
- 5 Understanding and ability to critically evaluate the role and political importance of categories such as class, gender, race and sexuality

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars: various readings and material such as films will be used to introduce theoretical concepts, debates and methods in the study of the post/colonial. The seminars will be led by participants.

Guest Speakers: in function of availability, we will invite guest speakers –including academics, activists and/or artists—to complement and expand the core seminar themes.

Fieldworks: during the semester we will visit Brussels (or Ghent) to explore post/colonial questions through the city and via discussions with academic,

activists and/or artists engaged in decolonization (feasibility of the excursion will depend on the rules regarding to Covid 19)

Study material

None

References

See authors suggestions in the Course Contents section

Course content-related study coaching

Iterative coaching through UFORA and consultation by personal appointment

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period****Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- With the assignments students will be tested on their knowledge and critical insights in postcolonial theories and methodologies that were presented during the lectures and were provided through the readings.
- Continuous assessment during the seminar discussions
- Assessment of the groups assignment presentations through which students demonstrate their knowledge of and ability to critically apply postcolonial theories, concepts and frameworks of analysis through a case study on the Global South. The evaluation methods are subject to change due to the rules pertaining to Covid 19

Calculation of the examination mark

- 20%: Participation
- 40%: Group Presentation
- 40%: Reading Reflections

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance: Class attendance is (partly) mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score
- Info about exam facilities: It is possible to take the exam at a different time within/outside the regular exam period.
- Info about feedback: Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment