

## **Seminar II: Postcolonial Literature**

This class is designed as an introduction into postcolonial literature and theory. The goal is to familiarize students with a couple of key texts from central regions and different eras of the English-speaking postcolonial world. Our reading of these literary texts will be accompanied by some of the classics of postcolonial theory, as well as some newer approaches in the field. Among the concepts, questions, and theories that we will discuss are the relation between colonialism and imperialism, Orientalism, the role of English for colonial domination, conceptions of resistance, ecological dimensions of (post)colonialism, as well as concepts such as hybridity and creolization. We will also discuss the relation of postcolonialism to political and intellectual traditions such as postmodernism, poststructuralism, Marxism, and Cultural Studies and will debate the importance and affordances of the notion of postcolonialism with regard to some other terms that have been proposed to replace it, such as transnationalism, globalisation, or world literature. Questions of literary form will also be a central point of our discussions as postcolonial literature's styles and genres also need to be understood in relation to socio-economic developments that required new forms of expression and in relation to world literary market forces that tended to commodify certain postcolonial styles and themes for a cosmopolitan reading public. Readings will be announced in the first week of class.

**Course requirements:** Regular and active participation in the seminar (no more than two missed classes), excellent knowledge of the texts assigned, oral presentation or preparation of discussion questions, term paper.