

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES
PhD FIELD EXAMINATION READING LIST
POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of Postcolonial Literature, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Field Exam

- i. Students are responsible for all the titles on the reading list.

2. Exam Structure

- i. This examination is divided into three parts: Part A: Poetry and Drama; Part B: Prose; Part C: General Question. Answer ONE (1) question from each of the THREE Parts.
- ii. All questions are of equal value. Students should not write extensively on one author more than once.
- iii. Make sure that your exam engages with writers who constitute a balanced representation of countries and regions.

READING LIST

Africa

Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
Ngugi wa Thiong'o: *Petals of Blood*
Tsitsi Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions*
J. M. Coetzee: *Disgrace*
Chistopher Okigbo: *Heavensgate*
Stella Chipasula and Frank Chipasula, eds.: *Heineman Book of African Women's Poetry*
Okot Bitek: *Song of Lawino*
Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King's Horseman*.
Ama ata Aidoo: *Dilemma of a Ghost; Anowa*
Zakes Mda: *Ways of Dying*
Nawal El Sadaawi: *Woman at Point Zero*
Mariama Ba: *So Long a Letter*
Jose Agualusa: *A General Theory of Oblivion*
Chimamanda Adichie: *Half of a Yellow Sun*
NoViolet Bulawayo: *We Need New Names*

Caribbean

Derek Walcott: *Omeros; Ti-Jean and His Brothers*
Kamau Braithwaite: *The Arrivants*
Grace Nichols: *I is a Long Memored Woman*
Marlene Nourbese Phillip: *Zong!*
David Dabydeen: *Turner*
Edouard Glissant: *Monsieur Toussaint: A Play*
Aimé Césaire: *A Tempest: Based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'; Adaptation for a Black Theatre*
Edwidge Danticat: *The Farming of Bones*
V. S. Naipual: *The Mimic Men*
Jamaica Kincaid: *A Small Place*
George Lamming: *In the Castle of My Skin*
Earl Lovelace: *Salt*
Erna Brodber: *Myal*

Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific

Vivienne Clemen: *Bitin' Back*
Mudrooroo Narogin (Colin Johnson): *Doctor Wooreddy's Prescription for Enduring the Ending of the World*
Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker): *We Are Going*
Roberta (Bobbi) Sykes: *Love Poems and Other Revolutionary Actions*
Alexis Wright: *Carpentaria*
Patricia Grace: *Potiki*
Witi Ihimaera, ed.: *Into the World of Light: An Anthology of Maori Writing* (selections from Arapera Blank, J.C. Sturm, and Keri Hulme)
Witi Ihimaera: *The Whale Rider*
Alan Duff: *Once Were Warriors*

South Asia

Mulk Raj Anand: *Untouchable*; *Coolie*
 Anita Desai: *Clear Light of Day*
 Nissim Ezekiel: *The Three Plays*; *Latter Day Psalms*
 R.K. Narayan: *The Guide*; *Under the Banyan Tree and Other Stories*
 Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children*
 Bapsi Sidhwa: *Cracking India*
 Rabindranath Tagore: *The Home and the World*
 Omprakash Valmiki: *Joothan: A Dalit's Life*
 Shyam Selvadurai: *Funny Boy*
 Amitav Ghosh: *Sea of Poppies*
 Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*
 Mahasweta Devi: *Imaginary Maps*
 Datta Bhagat: *Avart (Whirlpool)*

Indigenous Literatures of Turtle Island

Marilyn Dumont: *A Really Good Brown Girl*
 Louise Erdrich: *Tracks*
 Tomson Highway: *The Rez Sisters*
 Eden Robinson: *Monkey Beach*
 Leslie Marmon Silko: *Ceremony*
 Simon Ortiz: *From Sand Creek: Rising in this Heart Which is our America*
 Joshua Whitehead: *Jonny Appleseed*
 Kim Senklip Harvey: *Kamloopa*

Theory

Albert Memmi: *The Colonizer and the Colonized*
 Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks*, *The Wretched of the Earth*
 Edward Said: *Orientalism*; *Culture and Imperialism* (chapters 1 and 3)
 Homi K. Bhabha: "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse"
 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: "Can the Subaltern Speak?"; "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography"
 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o: *Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*
 Wole Soyinka: *Myth, Literature and the African World*
 Achille Mbembe: "Necropolitics" and "Provisional Notes on the Postcolony."
 Edward Braithwaite: *The History of the Voice* (Introduction and one chapter)
 Antonio Benítez-Rojo: *The Repeating Island* (Part 1 and Introduction)
 Aimé Césaire: *Discourse on Colonialism*
 Helen Gilbert and Joanne Tompkins: *Post-Colonial Drama: Theory, Practice, Politics* (Introduction and one chapter)
 Paul Gilroy: *After Empire* (Introduction and one chapter)
 Avtar Brah: *Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities* (Introduction and one chapter)
 Stuart Hall: "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" and "Thinking the Diaspora"
 Vijay Mishra: "Theorizing the Diasporic Imaginary"
 Chandra Talpade Mohanty: "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"

Glen Coulthard: *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* (Introduction and one chapter)
Daniel Heath Justice: *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* (Introduction)
David Scott: *Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment* (Introduction and one chapter)
Sara Ahmed. *Strange Encounters: Embodied Others in Post-Coloniality* (Introduction)
Ato Quayson. *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process?* (Introduction)
Aijaz Ahmed: "The Politics of Literary Postcoloniality"
Sharankumar Limbale: *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature: History, controversies and Considerations*
Simon Gikandi, "Globalization and the Claims of Postcoloniality"
Arif Dirlik: "The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism"
Anne McClintock: "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Postcolonialism'"
Benedict Anderson: *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Introduction and one chapter)
Rob Nixon: *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (Introduction and one chapter)
Dipesh Chakrabarty: "The Climate of History: Four Theses"
Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin: *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment* (Introduction)
Stef Craps: *Postcolonial Witnessing: Trauma Out of Bounds* (Introduction)
Sakiru Adebayo: *Continuous Pasts: Frictions of Memory in Postcolonial Africa* (Introduction and one chapter)
Zakiyyah Iman Jackson: *Becoming Human: Matter and Meaning in an Antiracist World* (Introduction and one chapter)
Graham Huggan: *Postcolonial Exotic* (Introduction and one chapter)
Julie Ren: *Postcolonial Urbanism* (Introduction)
Ananya Roy: "Who is Afraid of Postcolonial Theory?"

For helpful surveys of the field, please refer to the following sources:

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Young, Robert. *Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

For edited collections that may contain some of the critical/theoretical essays named on the lists above, please refer to the following sources:

Castle, Gregory, ed. *Postcolonial Discourses: An Anthology*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2001.

Schwarz, Henry and Sangeeta Ray, eds. *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2000.

Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, eds. *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Departmental regulations regarding PhD qualifying exams can be found @ the following site:
https://uwo.ca/english/graduate/programs/phd_program/phd_regulations.html