

# English 5000

## Studies in: British Postcolonialisms

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*The Satanic Verses*, *Trainspotting*, *Castle Rackrent*, *My Beautiful Launderette*. What do they have in common? They represent the “postcoloniality” of modern British culture. Postcolonial literature erupts at the pressure points between dominant and subjected national populations. It evolves in the wake of colonialism, but not just in “foreign” places. It responds to the colonial situation, but may not be subject to it. We can see it where the empire constructs its others, but equally where rifts are opened within established discourses by voices from other lands.

This course grounds itself in literary responses to fading colonialism in “British” lands abroad. It quickly moves on to consider the ways that British literature is reformulated by the movement of peoples from the Empire to Britain. Finally, the course considers how British literature has always been problematized by internal colonization through those long-term English others, the Scots and the Irish.

Students will read and view obviously postcolonial works (like *Shakespeare Wallah*) as limit-texts, but will dwell on the perplexities of British postcoloniality in England / Scotland / Ireland. They may expect to consider ethnic texts of all sorts, Irish poetry, Scottish movies, English newspapers. . . .

This course encourages students to guide the curriculum, to develop their own research ideas, and actively to participate in the new field of Britain’s internal postcolonial studies.

Texts (may change according to interests; supplemented by in-class reading and viewing)

Bill Ashcroft	<i>Postcolonial Studies Reader</i> 2nd ed
David Morley	<i>British Cultural Studies</i>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Gunga Din &amp; Other Poems; Man Who Would Be King &amp; ... Stories</i>
Rushdie, Salman	<i>The Satanic Verses</i>
Edgeworth, Maria	<i>Castle Rackrent</i>
Boland, Eavan	<i>The Lost Land</i>
Scott, Walter	<i>Chronicles of the Canongate</i>
MacDiarmid, Hugh	<i>Selected Poetry</i>
McGrath, John	<i>Six Pack: Plays for Scotland</i> (we read <i>The Cheviot, the Stag . . .</i>
Liz Lohead	<i>True Confessions and New Clichés</i>
Warner, Alan	<i>The Man Who Walks</i>

**Schedule**

PCSR = *The Post-colonial Studies Reader* 2nd ed.; BCS = *British Cultural Studies*

Date	Focus	Text	assignment	your presentations
Jan 10	Introduction What is p-c? What is “ British”?	Kipling poetry PCSR sects. 3, 22, 46 (view <i>Shakespeare Wallah</i> )		
Jan 17	Deconstructed Britishness set today>	Kipling stories BCS intros & sects. 1, 2, 8  PCSR sect. 5, 85 (view <i>It Ain't Half Hot, Mum</i> )	<assignments will be	
Jan 24	Deconstructing <i>other</i> Britons	Rushdie, <i>Satanic Verses</i> PCSR sects. 1, 26 Naipaul PMLA xerox (view <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> )		
Jan 31	Postcolonial theories (& theory review)	PCSR sects. 4, 7, 18, 14, 17, 21 (view <i>Bend it Like Beckham</i> )	<u>theory synopses</u>	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____

Feb 7	Ireland and pc?	Edgeworth, <i>Castle Rackrent</i> PCSR sect. 23 (view <i>Secret of Roan Inish</i> )	1. <u>class or question</u>
Feb 14		Boland, <i>Lost Land</i> PCSR sects. 27, 55 BCS 12 (view <i>Bloody Sunday</i> )	2. <u>class or question</u>
Feb 21	Scottish pc?	Scott, <i>Chronicles of the Canongate</i> (xerox) BCS 6 Said xerox (Scott) CMF xerox (HW / MM / book intro & ch) (view <i>Carry on up the Khyber</i> )	3. <u>class or question</u>
Feb 28		MacDiarmid poetry MacDiarmid's theory (xerox) PCSR sects 33, 35, 36 Craig xerox (Body in Kitbag) (view <i>Gregory's Girl</i> or <i>Wicker Man</i> )	4. <u>class or question</u>
Mar 7		McGrath, <i>The Cheviot . . .</i> McCrone xerox (Sc. the brand) CMF xerox (Tartan Pols) (view parts of <i>Braveheart</i> )	5. <u>class or question</u>

SPRING BREAK

Mar 21		Lohead, <i>True Confessions</i> PCSR sect. 56 BCS 23. 24 (view <i>Trainspotting</i> )	6. <u>class or question</u>
Mar 28		Warner, <i>These Demented Lands</i> PCSR sects. 40, 104 BCS 27 (view <i>Hamish Macbeth</i> )	7. <u>class or question</u>
Apr 4		PCSR 25, 43, 44, 78 BCS 25 Bhabha xerox (Dissemi/nation) (view <i>The Crying Game</i> )	
Apr 11	NO CLASS:	student research and consultation	
Apr 18	Class Colloquium & theory review	PCSR sect 89 PMLA xeroxes (Jay, Said, Livingstone)	<u>student conf pres</u> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____
Apr 25	NO CLASS:	student research and consultation	
May 2	FINAL PAPER DUE 9 a.m. in my mailbox		

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