

BEYOND ORIENTALISM  
ARTH 723 — COMS 639 — EAST 515

Fall 2017; TR 2:35-3:55; FERR 230

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Office Hours:

Objectives: This course introduces a number of theoretical approaches to the study of non-western histories, cultures, institutions, etc. There are two primary objectives: to prepare students to read and analyze contemporary scholarly theory and practice; and to examine the goals and histories of various disciplines in constructing their object of study. The aim is not merely to present some of the critical impasses of various disciplinary approaches, but more importantly to discuss alternatives.

Methodology: We will discuss the reading or readings indicated in the schedule on that date, with an emphasis on analyzing these texts in terms of their aims/hypotheses, assumptions/conclusions, and modes of analysis. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. The readings are organized around a certain problematic. At the end of each unit, a response on that unit will be due, as marked on the schedule. In general, the response will comprise five pages: one page of critical summary for each of four different readings from that unit (which will be announced), with a fifth page presenting a more general response. There will be, in total, four of these five-page responses. Students are encouraged to use the fifth page to relate the readings to a specific research project, such that, in the course the term, student can develop a critical perspective for that project. Students are welcome to write a short paper based on that project instead of the fourth response paper.

Readings: Copies will be available.

Evaluation:

20% Participation

80% 4 responses, 20%@

Finally, McGill requires syllabi to include these statements:

*In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.*

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/> for more information).*

*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.*

READING SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 Introduction

Orientalism and After

- Sept 7 —Edward Said, “Introduction” and “Redrawn Frontiers, Redefined Issues, Secularized Religion,” from *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 2003/1978).  
—Edward Said, “*Orientalism* and After: An Interview with Edward Said,” *Radical Philosophy* 63 (Spring 1993), 22-32.
- Sept. 12 Guest Lecture: Rey Chow  
—Rey Chow, “Foucault, Race, and Racism,” in *After Foucault*, ed. Lisa Downing (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)  
Recommended:  
—Edward Said, “Preface to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition,” from *Orientalism* (2003/1978).
- Sept. 14 — Aijaz Ahmad, “*Orientalism* and After: Ambivalence and Metropolitan Location in the Work of Edward Said,” from *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures* (London and New York: Verso, 1992).
- Sept. 19 —Louis Althusser, “Contradiction and Overdetermination,” *New Left Review* 41 (1967): 15-35.
- Sept. 21 — David Couzens Hoy, “Power, Repression, Progress,” in *Foucault: A Critical Reader*, ed. David Couzens Hoy (Basil Blackwell, 1986).  
— Michel Foucault, “Truth and Power,” in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977* by Michel Foucault, ed. Colin Gordon (Harvester Press, 1980).
- Sept. 26 —Michel Foucault, “The Subject and Power,” Afterword to *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* (University of Chicago Press, 1982).  
—Michel Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population*, trans. Graham Burchell (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 1-53.

Postcolonial and Anti-Racist Feminisms

- Sept 28 —Leela Gandhi, “After Colonialism” and “Postcolonialism and Feminism,” from *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction* (Columbia University Press, 1998), 1-22; 81-101.
- Oct. 3 **Guest speaker:** TBA

**Response 1**

- Oct. 5 —Kimberle Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color,” *Stanford Law Review* (1991): 1241-1299.  
—Sirma Bilge, “Recent Feminist Outlooks on Intersectionality.” *Diogenes* 57:1 (2010): 58-72.
- Oct. 10 —Robyn Wiegman and Elizabeth A. Wilson, “Introduction: Antinormativity’s Queer Conventions,” *differences* 26.1 (2015): 1-25.  
—Vicki Kirby, “Transgression: Normativity’s Self Inversion,” *differences* 26.1 (2015): 96-116.
- Oct. 12 —Gayatri Gopinath, “Bollywood Spectacles: Queer Diasporic Critique in the Aftermath of 9/11,” *Social Text* 23:3-4 84-85 (2005): 157-169.  
—Elizabeth Povinelli, “Transgender Creeks and the Three Figures of Power in Late Liberalism,” *differences* 26.1 (2015): 168-187.
- Oct. 17 —Bonita Lawrence and Enakshi Dua, “Decolonizing Antiracism,” *Social Justice* 32: 4 (2005): 120-143.
- Oct. 19 —Denise Ferreira da Silva, “No Bodies: Law, Raciality and Violence,” *Griffith Law Review* 18.2 (2009): 212-236.

Nationalisms and Sovereignty

- Oct. 24 **Guest Speaker:** Rosiland Hampton

**Response 2 due**

- Oct. 26 — E. J. Hobsbawm, “Introduction,” “The Apogee of Nationalism,” and “Nationalism in the Late Twentieth Century,” from *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Oct 31 — Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (Verso, 1983), pp. 1-82.
- Nov. 2 —Slavoj Žižek, “Eastern Europe's Republics of Gilead,” *New Left Review* 183 (1990): 50-63.  
—Nikolay Karkov, “Balkan Ghosts, Western Specters, and the Politics of Location: The Case of Slavoj Žižek,” *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 16:3 (2011): 291-298.

- Nov. 7 — Étienne Balibar, “Racism and Nationalism” from *Race, Nation and Class: Ambiguous Identities*, by Étienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein (Verso, 1991).
- Nov. 9 — Jon Solomon, “Taiwan Incorporated: A Survey of Biopolitics in the Sovereign Police’s Pacific Theater of Operations,” in *Impacts of Modernities*, ed. Thomas Lamarre and Kang Nae-hui (Hong Kong University Press, 2003), 231-256.
- Nov. 14 — Lisa Lowe, “Borders on Belonging: Gender and Immigration,” *The Scholar and Feminist Online* 6:3 (Summer 2008): [www.barnard.edu/sfonline](http://www.barnard.edu/sfonline)  
— Pheng Cheah, “Crises of Money,” *positions* 16:1 (Spring 2008): 189-219.

### Decolonizing Media Studies

- Nov. 16 Guest Speaker: Thomas Looser  
Recommended:  
— Thomas Looser, “Private Cities,” in *Anthropology of the City*, ed. Seth Low (Routledge, 2017).

### **Response 3 due**

- Nov. 21 — Arjun Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy,” *Theory, Culture & Society* 7:2 (1990): 295-310.  
— Bhaskar Sarkar, “Postcolonial and Transnational Perspectives,” *The Sage Handbook of Film Studies* (2008): 123-144.
- Nov. 23 — Ani Maitra and Rey Chow, “What’s ‘in’? Disaggregating Asia through New Media Actants,” in *Routledge Handbook of New Media in Asia*, eds. Larrisa Hjorth and Olivia Khoo (London: Routledge 2015), 17-27.  
— Thomas Lamarre, “Platformivity: Media Studies, Area Studies,” in *Regional Platforms*, ed. Jinying Li and Marc Steinberg, special issue of *Digital Asiascapes* 4.3 (2017): 285-305.
- Nov. 28 — Aihwa Ong, “Hyperbuilding: Spectacle, Speculation, and the Hyperspace of Sovereignty,” in *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*, ed. Ananya Roy and Aihwa Ong (Blackwell, 2011), 205-226.
- Nov. 30 — Neferti X. M. Tadiar, “Life-Times of Disposability within Global Neoliberalism,” *Social Text* 31.2 115 (2013): 19-48.  
— Lisa Nakamura, “Don’t Hate the Player, Hate the Game: The Racialization of Labor in World of Warcraft,” *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 26.2 (2009): 128-144.

- Dec. 11 **Response 4 due**