



POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

PROF. SAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY

Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
IIT Kanpur

TYPE OF COURSE

: Rerun | Elective | PG

COURSE DURATION

: 4 weeks (24 Jan'22 - 18 Feb'22)

EXAM DATE

: 27 Mar 2022

INTENDED AUDIENCE

: PG/MA students of English Literature

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO

: Universities and academic institutions teaching courses on postcolonialism and South Asian studies.

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course on Postcolonial literature will explore colonialism and anti-colonial resistance through the cultural legacies and literary imprints that they leave. It will also be an introduction to the specialised field of postcolonial studies which started emerging during the 1980s and ever since then has come to occupy a significant position within the various humanities departments across the world. It is hoped that this course will enable students to competently navigate the complex maze of theoretical terms and concepts that characterise postcolonial studies and savour the wonderful variety and richness of the literature that is today classified under the rubric of postcolonialism.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Sayan Chattopadhyay is an assistant professor of English literature at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Kanpur. He has a doctorate degree from the University of Cambridge. His primary areas of research include Postcolonial Studies and Indian English Writings and his research articles have appeared in various scholarly journals including Journal of Postcolonial Writing (Routledge), Ariel: A Review of International English (University of Calgary), The Journal of Commonwealth Literature (Sage) and Prose Studies: History, Theory, Criticism (Routledge).

COURSE PLAN :**Week 1 :**

1. Introduction: What is postcolonialism?
2. Commonwealth Literature
3. Colonial Discourse Analysis: Michel Foucault
4. Colonial Discourse Analysis: Edward Said
5. Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness

Week 2 :

1. Colonialism: The African Perspective
2. Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart (I)
3. Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart (II)
4. Decolonisation and the Discourse of Nationalism: The Context of India
5. Sonnets of Henry Derozio

Week 3 :

1. Raja Rao's Kanthapura (I)
2. Raja Rao's Kanthapura (II)
3. Critics of Nationalism: Rabindranath Tagore and Frantz Fanon
4. Homi Bhabha and the concept of cultural hybridity
5. Caribbean Poetry: Derek Walcott

Week 4 :

1. Diasporic literature: Selections from Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies
2. Gayatri Spivak: Answering the question "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
3. Mahasweta Devi Pterodactyl I
4. Mahasweta Devi Pterodactyl II
5. Conclusion: Postcolonial Futures