

Western University/Political Science
Critical Political Theory 9504b

Thematic Focus 2021-22:

Introduction to Theories of Coloniality/Modernity, Post-Colonialism, Settler-Colonialism, and Decolonialism.

Instructor Contact Information:

Dr. Nandita Biswas Mellamphy (email nbiswasm[at]uwo.ca); please email to make appointment.

Course Description: This course is a curated introduction to critical political theories that seek to explore and interrogate the colonial, gendered, and racialized legacies of political theory. The course will be devoted to familiarizing you with some notable historical and contemporary theories, arguments and debates in political theory, cultural studies, and decolonization studies. We will explore some of the historico-conceptual intersections of political theory and modernity, and examine the Eurocentric legacies of Enlightenment thinking and the subsequent politics of social, racial, and sexual hierarchies. You will become familiar with selected theories of otherness, coloniality, post-colonialism, settler colonialism, and decolonialism, as well as various debates about the limits of liberal recognition, the potentials of multiple and/or alternative worldviews, and the failures of the western philosophical canon.

Learning Outcomes: Although there is no particular geographical focus, the course endeavors to expose students to non-canonical and diverse viewpoints from a range of scholarly areas and literatures. The weekly seminar presentations by individual students are meant to promote constructive, critical discussion and develop students' reflective, methodological, theoretical, and empirical engagements with the materials. The aim of the course is to expose students to critical political concepts and theories that they could use to inform their own theoretical and empirical research. By the end of this course, the student should be able to identify and compare some main concepts and arguments in selected critical political theories, as well as develop basic connections between these theories and relevant empirical materials.

Course Evaluation:

Individual Seminar Lecture: 24% (Oral/visual Presentation = 15% + Written = 9%)

Weekly Short Critical Response to weekly readings: 3% each x 12= 36% (written and oral/to be used as basis for weekly discussions).

Critical Comparative Literature Review of at least at least 8 articles and 4 books on the course reading list: 40%

Selected Course Texts:

Fanon, F. (1952) *Black Skins White Masks*.

Pateman, C. (1988) *The Sexual Contract*.

Mills, C. (1997) *The Racial Contract*.

Dussel, E. (1995) *Eurocentrism and Modernity*.

Quijano, A. (2007) *Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality*.

Kohn, M. and K. McBride. (2011) *Political Theories of Decolonization: Postcolonialism and the Problem of Foundations*.

Persram, N. ed. (2007) *Postcolonialism and Political Theory*.

Levy, J., with Iris Marion Young, eds. (2011) *Colonialism and its Legacies*.

Veracini, Lorenzo. (2010) *Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview*. York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Weheliye, A. (2014) *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human*.

Coulthard, G. (2014) *Red skin, White masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*.

Weekly Reading Schedule: will be circulated and discussed in first class.

