

**SOC 715: SEMINAR IN CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIOLOGY
TOPIC: SOCIOLOGY OF POSTCOLONIALISM**

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA - SPRING 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nandita Sharma

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CLASS SCHEDULE: Thursdays from 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: TBA

Course Description:

Our study of postcolonialism will start from the perspective that there are two postcolonialisms: a *postcolonial world order* in which the post-WWII, hegemonic system of nation/state/sovereignty has come to dominate and a *scholarship* on postcolonialism that analyzes this world order. We will begin with an examination of the establishment of the postcolonial world order and then turn to the work of theorists/critics of postcoloniality. Through a reading of key texts in the field, we will examine how postcolonial analyses of society, culture and power both question and alter the ways we see and understand social phenomena and social identities. We will also examine how they destabilize the epistemological and ontological frames for understanding dominant social, political, and economic social relations. In particular, we will examine how postcolonial theorists/critics challenge assumptions about the existence of separate, discrete, distinct and unrelated “societies” (usually nation-states) and “people” (usually “nations”). We will further examine postcolonial theorists/critics insistence on *connection and cross-border interaction*: the connection between Europe and its colonies; the connection between colonizer and colonized, the connection between the colonial past and the postcolonial present and future; the connections across the borders of “race,” “nation,” gender and sexuality, and the experiential connections across national borders erected in the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. In particular, we will examine the cross-border interactions between people partitioned into separated colonial and, now, nation-state categories (e.g. “natives”, “settler colonists,” “migrant,” and “citizen”).

REQUIRED READINGS: (Note: a number of these books are quite short!)

FF Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, New York: Grove Press, 2005 (1961).

MM Mahmood Mamdani, *Define and Rule: Native as Political Identity (The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures)*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.

ES Edward Said, *Orientalism*, New York: Vintage Books Edition, 1979 (25th Anniversary Edition printed in 2004).

GCS Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward a History of the Vanishing Present*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press

JCS James C. Scott, *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press

BA Bridget Anderson, *Us and Them? The Dangerous Politics of Immigration Control*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Participation (preparation and level of engagement)	10%
Discussion Questions (each class)	20%
Short Papers on Readings (2 in term)	30%
Final Research Paper (approx. 25 pp)	40%

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Your attendance is expected. You are responsible for everything that is covered during class time. Moreover, attendance is usually a good indicator of your participation in this course (i.e. interest, commitment and enthusiasm) which accounts for 10% of your grade. Just as importantly, you are expected to come *fully prepared* for each class by having completed your assigned readings and having developed questions and comments that will allow you to be an *active* participant in class discussions.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy on the day they are due. Late papers will be penalized at 10% per day late.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Students will develop their critical learning skills by: examining the historical origins of key ideas, concepts and categories shaping human experience today; examining the relations or ruling that organize dominant ideas, concepts and categories and; examining how people have variously contested these ideas, concepts and categories. Students will also develop their reading, writing and oral presentation skills in order to become clear thinkers and articulate communicators of theoretically informed empirical research.