

**Gujarat Vidyapith, Sadra**

**Department of English**

**B.A. (English)**

**Semester VI**

**MJRENG 603: Postcolonial Literature**

**Credit: 4**

**No. of Hours: 60**

**Internal Evaluation: 40**

**Semester-End Examination: 60**

**Objective:** The paper aims to introduce students to the idea of postcolonial literature which gained currency in the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The paper seeks to explore how literature has come to be used as a tool to explore the colonial past and how the native societies are coming to terms with that past. The paper seeks to explore the radical political potential of literature as it emerged in the latter half of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Learning Outcomes:**

After completing the course, the students will have:

1. Understanding of the concept of postcolonialism.
2. Understanding of how literature deals with the political.
3. Awareness of different authors and works under the rubric of postcolonial literature.

<b>Unit No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Teaching Methodology</b>	<b>Weightage and Duration</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Understanding Colonialism and Postcolonialism</b> 1.1 Defining the terms: colonialism and postcolonialism 1.2 Colonialism and its implications 1.3 Issues taken up by postcolonial literature 1.4 Major figures in postcolonial theory and their contribution	1. Classroom lectures 2. YouTube videos on postcolonialism	25%; 15 Hours
<b>2</b>	<b>Novel</b> 2.1 Postcolonial Novels 2.2 Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Circle of Reason</i>	1. Classroom lectures 2. Classroom discussion	25%; 15 Hours
<b>3</b>	<b>Poetry</b> 3.1 Derek Walcott 1. "The Sea is History" 2. "A Fry Cry from Africa" 3. "Sea Grapes"	1. Classroom lectures 2. Classroom discussion	25%; 15 Hours

	3.2 Agha Shahid Ali 1. "Decca Gauzes" 2. "Postcard from Kashmir" 3. "Tonight" 3.3 Mahadai Das 1. "They Came in Ships" 2. "Bones" 3.4 John Agard 1. "Listen Mr. Oxford Don" 2. "Half-Caste" 3.5 Ben Okri 1. "An African Elegy" 2. "On Edge of Time Future"		
<b>4</b>	<b>Drama</b> 4.1 Postcolonial Drama 4.2 Derek Walcott's <i>Pantomime</i>	1. Classroom lectures 2. Classroom discussion	25%; 15 Hours

### Recommended Texts:

- Abrams, M.H. and Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Delhi: Cengage Learning, 2015.
- Achebe, Chinua. *Collected Poems*. New York: Anchor Books, 2004.
- Ahmad, Aijaz. *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures*. London, Verso, 1992.
- Ashcroft, B., G. Griffiths and H. Tiffins. Eds. *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Cesaire, Aime. *A Discourse on Colonialism*.
- Chipasula, Frank M. *Bending the Bow: An Anthology of African Love Poetry*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2009.
- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 1967.
- Ghosh, Amitav. *The Circle of Reason*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2008.
- Gilbert, Helen. Ed. *Postcolonial Plays: An Anthology*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. London and New York, Routledge, 2005.
- Memmi, Albert. *The Colonizer and the Colonized*. London: Earthscan, 2003.
- Mistry, Cyrus. *Doongaji House*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2006.
- Mongia, Padmini. Ed. *Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A Reader*. London, Arnold, 1996.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Eds. C. Nelson and L. Grossberg. Basingstoke: Macmillan Education, 1988.

### Unit Wise Essential Reading List

#### Unit 1: Understanding Colonialism and Postcolonialism

- Abrams, M.H. and Geoffrey Galt Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Delhi: Cengage Learning, 2015.
- Ashcroft, B., G. Griffiths and H. Tiffins. Eds. *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 1995.

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### Internet Resources

- What is Postcolonialism? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7DtnDt8its>  
 Post Colonialism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2GGTm3SJqI>  
 Colonialism: The African Perspective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lxPma21NRQ>

### Unit 2: Novel

- Ghosh, Amitav. *The Circle of Reason*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2008.

### Unit 3: Poetry

- Achebe, Chinua. *Collected Poems*. New York: Anchor Books, 2004.  
 Chipasula, Frank M. *Bending the Bow: An Anthology of African Love Poetry*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2009.

### Internet Resources

- Caribbean Poetry: Derek Walcott <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z41-FpmYXhc>

### Unit 4: Drama

- Derek Walcott's *Pantomime*

### Internet Resources

- Performance of *Pantomime* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1bC503njMI>  
 Derek Walcott: Dramatist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvKrRdw8hUQ>

## Examination Pattern

### Continuous Evaluation:

**Total Marks: 20**

#### Components

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Student's Presentation from all units | Marks: 10 |
| a. Understanding of the subject matter   |           |
| b. Command over the language             |           |
| c. Confidence                            |           |
| d. Answering questions                   |           |
| 2. Assignment                            | Marks: 10 |
| a. Understanding of the question         |           |

- b. Use of multiple textual material
- c. Grammatical accuracy

### **Internal Examination**

**Total Marks: 20**

Total internal examinations of 20 marks each will be conducted and the higher marks from either of the examinations will be considered.

### **Semester End Examination**

**Total Marks: 60**

This will have equal representation from each unit. Following is a sample from each unit:

#### **Unit 1: Understanding Colonialism and Postcolonialism**

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.  
For example: Discuss Postcolonialism and features of postcolonial literature.

**OR**

What are the major preoccupations of postcolonial writers?

#### **Unit 2: Novel**

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.  
For example: Discuss *The Circle of Reason* as a postcolonial novel.

**OR**

Amitav Ghosh questions the teleology of reason in his novel *The Circle of Reason*. Discuss.

#### **Unit 3: Poetry**

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.  
For example: Discuss the features of postcolonial poetry with suitable examples.

**OR**

2. Two short notes of 7.5 marks each.  
For examples: Write short notes on any two the following poems.

#### **Unit 4: Drama**

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.  
For example: Examine *Pantomime* as a postcolonial drama.

**OR**

Discuss themes in the drama *Pantomime*.