# E33D Postmodernism and Post-Colonial Theory

### **Course Outline**

InIn E23GIn E23G Twentieth Century Twentieth Century Literary Theory to Saussure, the focus is on what broadlybroadly be described broadly be described as *modernist* developments in literary developments in (in(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early Twentieth Century schools of literary critici(in most cases) early the literary critici(in most cases) early the literary critici(in most cases) early the literary critici(in most cases) early literary critici Criticism, Criticism, Criticism, Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Reader-response theory, etc. These schools havehave in commonhave in common the fact have in common the fact that they are all predicated up language language (i.e. the view that language (i.e. the view that words merelylanguage (i.e. the view that words merel of of this course, of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing negotiation of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of this course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the ongoing region of the course, E33D, is on the course, E political political radicalism, anti-humanism and anti-essentialism of Postmodernism, of Postmodernism, of one one hand, and of Post-Colonialism, on the other. That is, one hand, and of Post-Colonialism, on the other willwill be drawn between recent will be drawn between recent sowill be drawn between developments developments in both philosophy and littlevelopments in both philosophy and literary tde called called Cartesian subject, have considerably, have considerably problematised how, have considerably extratextualextratextual or textual, for certain and, as a result, challenged soextratextual or textual, fo precious precious assumptions [the so-called grand legitimating narratives] concerning the absolute absolute nature of truth, absolute nature of truth, the fixity of absolute nature of truth, the fixity of po onon the one on the one hand, and recent challenges to some of theon the one hand, and recent challenges thethe legitimating narratives integral tothe legitimating narratives integral to imperialist discourse suc subject,, on the other. This cou, on the other. This course is m, on the other. This course is motivate uponupon those critical methodologies whichupon those critical methodologies which have provenupon to pertinent pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and pertinent to the criticism of West Indian, African and Pertinent to the Criticism of West Indian, African and Pertine to th aa concerted effort will be made: a) to emphasise to students how Saussure's critique of of referential theories of language (language, within his of referential theories of language) interpretation interpretation of reality, rather than the other interpretation of reality, rather than the other wa turn, turn, of Saussurturn, of Saussure have ledturn, of Saussure have led to the formation of an app (Deconstruction)(Deconstruction) which, by emphasising the necessarily(Deconstruction) which, by em naturenature of all thought, has immensely radicalnature of all thought, has immensely radical implications thinking; thinking; b) to show how somthinking; b) to show how some Marxistthinking; b) to show ho reinstall the historical referent which the Structuralist legacy threatensreinstall the historical referent which (the Bakhtin Circle) or (the Bakhtin Circle) or to rethink the relationship (the Bakhtin Circle) or to rethink contextcontext (Post-Structuralistcontext (Post-Structuralist Marxism); c) tocontext (Post-Structuralist Marxism) approachesapproaches (such as Foucauldian Discourse Analysis) have sought to extend the skepskepticalskeptical project of Postmodernism without succumbing to the apoliticismskeptical pro ahistoricismahistoricism of Structuralism or faahistoricism of Structuralism or fallahistoricism of S Marxism; Marxism; d) to situate at every turn Post-colonial thinkersMarxism; d) to situate at every turn Posttoto Helen Tiffin in a relationship that might bto Helen Tiffin in a relationship that might be descrto He appropriation appropriation to these seminal metropolitan appropriation to these seminal metropolitan cur students to apply the various theoretical approaches addressed in the course to their ownown research and writing. To these ends, students willown research and writing. T ofof articles by seminof articles by seminal Strucof articles by seminal Structuralist and Post-Structu MichelMichel Foucault s Truth andMichel Foucault s Truth and Power ) that will be pairedMichel Foucault byby Post-Colonial theorists (for example, an extract from Edwa forfor purposes of comparison andfor purposes of comparison and contrast. While E23G is not a prerequisi inin academic year 1996-7, it is **very highly recommended** for all students of for all students of who would benefit immeasureably from the theoretical foundation provided by the former. I would strongly urge you to do both courses simultaneously this former. I would strongly urge y forfor the light that the one would cast on the light that also extremely useful.

AA Pedagogical Note: Students are put on notice from the word go that Students are put on notice from likelike mlike most other third year courses, will largely take the form of a seminar. like most other degreedegree to which seminars aredegree to which seminars are productive is a functiondegree to which se intointo I) their preparation of ainto I) their preparation of assinto I) their preparation of assign presentations presentations and reports mpresentations and reports made to theresentations and reports read, read and reread the read, read and reread the assigned rearead, read and reread the assign comecome to grips with anything iscome to grips with anything is to make detailled notes for myself) and classclass in a vigorous exchange of ideas with their class in a vigorous exchange of ideas with their coll aa combination of careful preparation and dialogue that students willa combination of careful preparation forfor themselves the important information to be drawn from the assigned readings. InIn this reIn this regard, students are also reminded that where the primary readings are absolutely absolutely essential and simply absolutely essential and simply must be prepared ahead of class, and and the suggestions for furtfurther further reading are just that: they are suggested readings onlyonly designed tonly designed to provide necessary background and much needed clarification isis entirely up to you whetheris entirely up to you whether you choose to read them or not. You may, howev themthem useful as explithem useful as explicatory tools and when it comes to writing t preparing preparing for the final preparing for the final expreparing for the final exam. NB: one photo found in the E33D folder in the library.

### **Meeting Times**

WeWe meet twice per week (**TuTu 3-5** and **Fri 12-2** [the latter is negotiable]) for an hour and a halfand a half each time. I will spend the first hour or so of and a half each time. I will spend the foutlining important points while the remainder of the time willoutlining presentations and discussion.

### **Method of Assessment**

Seminar presentations and general class participation: 10%

Term paper (suggested length 2,500 words): 30%

Final Exam: 60%

NB:NB: NB: Students are forewarned that a) essays must be written according toNB: Students a guidelines setguidelines set out theguidelines set out the Faculty pamphlet on essay writing (which is a

summarysummary of the <u>MLA Handbook</u>): ): SLO): SLOPPY WORK WILL BE PENALISED; b) regulationsb) regulations of the discipline of literatures in English now decree that students must pass at least one question in the exam in order to pass the course.

# Some Useful Background Readings On Reserve in the Library:

Terry Eagleton Literary Theory: an Introduction
Raman Selden A Reader s Guide to Contemporary Literary
Theory
Ann Jefferson & David Robey Modern Literary Theory: a
Comparative Introduction
Peter Barry Beginning Theory: an Introduction to Literary and
Cultural Theory
Steven Lynn Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature
with Critical Theory
Raman Selden Practising Theory and Reading Literature: an
Introduction
Bill Ashcroft, et. al. The Empire Writes Back: Theory and
Practice in Post-colonial Literatures

# **Anthologies of Literary Theory on Reserve in the Library:**

Hazard Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato

Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds. Critical Theory Since 1965

Charles Kaplan, ed. Criticism: the Major Statements

Raman Selden, ed. The Theory of Criticism: a Reader

Philip Rice and Patricia Waugh, eds. Modern Literary Theory: a Reader

RickRick Rylance, ed. <u>Debating Texts: Readings in Twentieth Century Literary Theory Debating Texts</u> Method.

K.M. Newton, ed. Twentieth Century Literary Theory: a Reader

RichardRichard Ellman and Charles Feidelson, eds. <u>The ModernThe Modern Tradition: Backgrounds of Mo</u>Literature

Peter Brooker Modernism/Postmodernism

Mark Currie Metafiction

Bill Ashcroft, et. al., eds. The Post-colonial Studies Reader

Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds. <u>ColonialColonial DiscourseColonial Discourse and Post-colonial Reader</u>

# **Reading Schedule**

# WEEK TWO

Introduction: Postmodernity, Postmodernism, Post-coloniality and Post-Colonialism

<u>Session One</u> PoPostmodernity:: a philosophic: a philosophical movement that contests: a philosophical mov legitimating legitimating master legitimating master narratives (i.e. the most important (i.e. the most whichwhich take the form of stories which a cwhich take the form of stories which a culturewh PremodernPremodern period (classicism) according to which the world is a reflectionreflection of an ideal world of essences beyond this and b) modernity (from about the Renaissance period(from about the Renaissance period on) concerning the fixed( of of the Self, the sure possibility of of the Self, the sure possibility of knowledge and the absoluteof of of Truth; essentialism versus socialsocial constructionism; absolute versus relative relative truth; relative truth; Truth versus interpretation: the indispensability relative trut language language to the construction of language to the construction of human experience; the ins signification: signification: ambiguisignification: ambiguity; the social con ideology (Marxist) and discourse (a Foucauldian (a Foucauldian term); the ororigination of this thinking in (Post)Struorigination of this thinkin phallogocentric an and Eurocentric nature of the master narratives of European European civilisation; deconstructing the binary opposites central central to thesethese master narratives; the decentering of the CartesiaCartesian/hCartesian/humanist subject: the material determination of the self;

> Postmodernism:: the cultural: the cultural period: the cultural period after modernism (c. (c. 1900-4 linklink blink between Realism and the Cartesian subject: words as neutral windowwindow on reality on the part of a certain subject; window on reality on the part of a anti-realism:: the challenge to mimetic notions of representation; notions of representation; the RealReal is unknowable in and of itself, only in its representations: the indisindispensabilityindispensability of narrative in the re-presentation of reality; the challenge challenge to orthodoxies: de-naturalising those things we unthinkinglyunthinkingly assume to be natural: interrogating unthinkingly assume to be natural: assumptions assumptions and showing themassumptions and showing them to be human/socialhul whichwhich words and, thus, narrative play a crucial role; which words and, thus, narrative play a author (traditionally conceptualised (traditionally conceptualised in terms of the (traditionally conc whosewhose outlook on realitywhose outlook on reality is certain); intertextuality an parody;; pastiche; irony; iirironic quotation; appropriation, etc.; the blurringblurring of accepted genres; metafiction: self-cons: self-conscious, selfreflexivereflexive fiction that deliberately reflexive fiction that deliberately foregrounds the convention ouourour ways of our ways of making sense of the Real; the appropriation of already existiexisting existing modexisting modes of representation to different ends has the effect of foreforegroundforegrounding a) how all our representations of the Real are predetermined, determined, b) the absence of authoriadetermined, b) the absence of authorial original determination of the subject and d) the relatdetermination of the subject and d knowinknowingknowing in thknowing in the wake of the elimination of the Cartesian subjec historiographicalhistoriographical metafiction: fiction that foregrounds the fact that thethe past the past cannot be re-presented as it the past cannot be re-presented as it really was--all w

areare the ways in which the past has been ideologically and discursively

constructed.

**Primary Readings:** 1) Jean-François Lyotard What is Postmodemism?

- 2) Ihab Hassan Toward a Concept of Postmodernism
- 3) Linda Hutcheon Representing the Postmodern
- 4) ---. De-naturalizing the Natural
- 5) ---. Telling Stories: Fiction and History
- 6) ---. Parodic Postmodern Representation

Secondary Readings: 1) Peter Brooker Introduction to his Modernism/Postmodernism

- 2) Mark Currie Introduction to Metafiction
- 3) Linda Hutcheon The Politics of Postmodernism passim
- 4) ---. The Poetics of Postmodernism passim

**Further Reading:** 1) Jean François Lyotard The Postmodern Condition

- 2) Jürgen Habermas Modernity: an Incomplete Project (in Brooker ed. Modernism/Postmodernism)
- 3) Ihab Hassan The Postmodern Turn passim
- 4) Patricia Waugh What is Metafiction and Why are they Saying Such Awful Things About It? (in Currie, ed. Metafiction)
- 5) Linda Hutcheon Historiographic Metafiction (in Currie, ed. Metafiction)

**Session Two** PoPost-Coloniality:: the historical and socio-economic cont: the historical and socio-economic Post-Colonial; Post-Colonial; equal consciousness of thPost-Colonial; equal consciousness of truth, truth, the social construction of all knowledge and the particular importance of language in negotiating importance of language in negotiating human experience; the constructionstructionconstruction of race and gender; the decentering of the imperialist subject;; inter; interroga; interrogating the orthodoxies and commonplaces of EurocentricEurocentric imperialist discourse; deconst; deconstructing; deconstructing; deconstructing Us/them, Us/them, White/black, Male/female binary oppositions chinary oppositions centbinary colonialiscolonialist disc discourse and dispelling the Eurocentric, racist and/or misogynistimisogynisticmisogynistic stereotypes of the non-European, both strategies indispensable indispensable to the constitution indispensable to the constitution indispensable to versusversus native colonies; the claim that the pronouncem colonies; the claim that the pronou anti-colonialanti-colonial and Post-colonial thinkers anticipated much of the radical radical thinking radical thinking of the Post-Structuralists; radical thinking of the Post-Structuralists philosophyphilosophy and, thus, philosophy and, thus, literary theory is markedmarked by a process of abrogation and appropriation marked by a process of abro borrowborrow and adaptborrow and adapt tborrow and adapt to different ends the thought of the PostmodernismPostmodernism and Post-ColonialismPostmodernism and Post-Colonialism as inte

> Post-Colonialism: Post-Colonialism: Abrogation and appropriation: seizing: seizing language language of tlanguage of the imperial centre and remoulding it to new subversive usages (turning the m usages (turning the master usages (turning the master s lang mimicrmimicrymimicry and and its relationship to the Postmodernist term intertextuality: intertextuality: doubled or split discourse with the potential to subvertsubvert from withinsubvert from within (i.e. working withinsubvert from within (i.e. working from from the imperial centre while contefrom the imperial centre while contestinfrom the underminingundermining the conventions of undermining the conventions of realism inherited from canon; canon; Lamming versus later West Indianon; Lamming versus later West Indian writcan

usingusing parody, pastiche, etc. to a) using parody, pastiche, etc. to a) underscousing parody, realityreality (i.e the illusreality (i.e the illusion dereality (i.e the illusion deliberately fostered by thatthat words are that words are merely a politically neutral—window uponthat words are merely a decentredecentre the subject of imperialism (both coloniser and colonised)decentre the subject of in emphasising emphasising the material determental determinantsemphasising the ofof aof auof author and characters alike and c) stress the relativity of all ways ofof knowing; strong sense of the of knowing; strong sense of the fictof knowing; strong sense historieshistories and the necessity of the rewriting of regional histories from thethe perspective of the native; the recent Post-Colonial challengthe perspective of the native; familiar genre distinctions.

Primary Readings: 1) Anthony Giddens From The Consequences of Modernity

- 2)2) Anne McClintock The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the T2) Anne McClintock colonialism
- 3) Vijay Mishra and Bob Hodge What is Post(-)colonialism?
- 4) Simon During Postmodernism or Post-colonialism Today
- 5) Linda Hutcheon Circling the Downspout of Empire

Secondary Readings: 1) Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman Introduction to Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory

2) Bill Ashcroft, et. al. Introduction to The Empire Writes Back

Further Reading: 1) Stephen Slemon The Scramble for Post-colonialism (in Ashcroft et. al. The Post-Colonial Studies Reader)

2) Frantz Fanon On National Culture (in Chrisman and Williams, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory)

#### WEEK THREE

### Saussurean Linguistics

Sagion One Millims

Session One MiMimesis; Saussure; Saussure s critique of theories of; Saussure s critique of theories of ling and and expressivism; sign, ref refer referent, signifier, signified; signification: language language does not reflect language does not reflect reality or express pre-exis language language shapes how we interpret the Real, constructlanguage shapes how we understanding understanding of the world in certain specifiable ways; syssystsystem or structure; differentifference (distinction); parole and langue; the paradigmatic and syntagmatic axes.

# Primary Readings: 1) Ferdinand de Saussure: From Course in General Linguistics

Secondary Readings: 1) David Robey Modern Linguistics and the Language of Literature (in Jefferson and Robey, eds. Modern Literary Theory)

2) Jonathan Culler The Linguistic Basis of Structura lism (in David Robey, ed. <u>Structuralism: an Introduction</u>)

3) ---. Structuralist Poetics passim

4) Terry Eagleton Structuralism and Semiotics (in his Literary Theory: an Introduction)

5) Terrence Hawks Structuralism and Semiotics passim

Further Reading: 1) Plato The Republic (especially Book X)

2) Aristotle Poetics

3) Ferdinand de Saussure Course in General Linguistics

4) Roman Jakobson The Metaphoric and the Metonymic Poles (in Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato)

SessionSessionATsimoilating Assimilating the significance of Saussure s theories; decentering decentering the Cartesian Cartesian subject: consciousness does not pre-Cartesian subject: consciousness does r

languaglanguagelanguage neither expresses pre-existent ideas nor serves merely to labellabel reality and b) if meaning is determined systemically, as Saussure claims, claims, then subjects do not useclaims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language: rather, claims, then subjects do not use or speak a language; rather, claims, then subjects do not use of the language is the subject of the language. usesuses or speaksuses or speaks the subject; our knowledgeuses or speaks the subject; our knowle the language we speak and write.

**Further Reading:** 

- 1) Emile Benveniste Subjectivity in Language (in Adams and Searle, eds. Critical Theory Since 1965)
- 2) ---. The Nature of the Linguistic Sign (in Adams and Searle, eds. Critical Theory Since 1965)
- 3) ---. Problems in General Linguistics

### WEEK FOUR

#### Deconstruction

Session One DDerrida s Critique, in turn, of the Saussurean critique of Derrida s critique, in turn, of linguisticlinguistic referentiality; linguistic referentiality; difference versus différance; nce; the deference thethe displacement of meaning; iintertintertextuality and its synonyms: of the other; the endless play of supplémentarité;; the tratrace signsignification;; the perversion rather than the subversion of the sherather than the subversion distinctions distinctions (binary opposites) assumed to exist between, for example, example, Maexample, Male and female, White and black: it is not a question of merely turning these hierarchies upon merely turning these hierarchies upon their head and merely formerly formerly unprivileged formerly unprivileged term--it is a question, formerly unprivileged term--it is a question and the privileged term--it is a question and the privileg oneone seemingly discrete one seemingly discrete category (suchone seemingly discrete category (suchone seemingly discrete category) in)) the other; the privileged term) the other; the privileged term (e.g. white)) the other; the privileged (e.g. black) for a sense of its own distinction.

#### **Primary Readings:** 1) Jacques Derrida Extract from Différance

- Secondary Readings: 1) Ann Jefferson Structuralism and Post-Structuralism (in Jefferson and Robey, eds. Modern Literary Theory)
  - 2) Terry Eagleton Poststructuralism (in his Literary Theory: an Introduction)
  - 3) Jonathan Culler On Deconstruction
  - 4) Christopher Norris Deconstruction: Theory and Practice
  - 5) Mark C. Taylor Introduction to Deconstruction in Context
  - 6) Vincent Leitch Deconstructive Criticism: an Advanced Introduction

Further Reading:

- 1) Friedrich Nietzsche On Truth and Lies in a non-Moral Sense (in Daniel Breazeale, ed. Philosophy and Truth)
- 2)2) Jacques Derrida Structure, Sign and Play in the2) Jacques Derrida Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences 2) Jacques Derrida Structure

Session Session A Tsing ilating Assimilating Derrida; Assimilating Derrida; a) all Assimilating Derrida; a) all meaning of of things, of things, is of things, is predicated upon the existence of binary opposites: Good versusversus evil, White verversus evil, White versus black, etc.; f undermined by the process by which opposites inundermined by the process by which other:other: good depends upon evil for its very exisother: good depends upon evil for its very only only mean only mean as a function only mean as a function of their position along the signifying anyany statement ultimately founders uponany statement ultimately founders upon its own figurative endsends upends up mired in contradictions; if Saussure makes our knowledgeends up mired in con exteriorityexteriority wholly exteriority wholly dependent upon language wholewhole process even more tenuous by makingwhole process even more tenuous by making oonlyonly of polysemy and, thus, contradictions; b) Derrida confirms the

decdecenteringdecentering of the subject which Saussure's theories imply: oral formsforms of language aforms of language are subjectforms of language are subject to the sam that, in both cases, language speaksthat, in both cases, language speaks thethat, in both cases, language are subject subject subject subject subject (synonymous with his/her consciousness or ideas)subject (synonymous with his/her determined by language which thus endetermined by language which thus entirelded beings capacity to think.

**Primary Readings:** Jacques Derrida Extract from Of Grammatology

### WEEK FIVE

# Some implications of Deconstuction for literary criticism

**Session One** work versus text; subversion of; subversion of canonical; subversion of canonical; intertextuality: intertextuality: the endless deferral of meaning; the intertextuality: exexplosion) explosion) of meanings (polysemy); the absence of the author; t); the absence of the workwork necessities the cwork necessities the collaboration of the replayplay and produce meaning; jouissance: the pleasure: the pleasure of the the death of the author: the text as a tissue of quotations.

**Primary Readings:** 1) Roland Barthes From Work to Text

2) ---. The Death of the Author

Session Two Two reading methodoloTwo reading methodologies; readerly (lislisible) versus) versus (scriptible)) tex) texts; Bar) texts; Barthes segmentation of the text into so many codes:: hermeneutic, semic, symbolic, proairetic, culturacultural; ; the quest forfor contradictions in the text: the tension between denotation and connotation: figurativ figurative or or rhetorical excess and the undoing of authorialauthorial intention; searc; searching ; searching for the aporia that deconstruct the binary oppositions upon which meaning is traditionally predicated.

**Primary Readings:** 1) Roland Barthes1) Roland Barthes The Structuralist Analysis of Narrative:1) Roland Barthes10-11"

2) Paul de Man Extract from Semiology and Rhetoric

# WEEK SIX

# Deconstruction and Post-Colonial Theory

**Session One** Brathwaite s Brathwaite s notion of *creolization* as prototypical of the as

Primary Readings: 1) Edward Kamau Brathwaite Creolization in Jamaica

- 2) ---. Nation Language
- 3)3) Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin Re-3) Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffi

# Textual Strategies in Post-colonial Writing

4)4) Gareth Gr4) Gareth Griffiths4) Gareth Griffiths 4) Gareth Griffiths Imitation,4) Gareth of the Post-colonial Text

Secondary Readings: 1) Bill Ashcroft et. al. The Empire Writes Back

Session Two Practical Practical applications: the West IPractical applications: the West Indian novel a deconstructive deconstructive relationship of supplementarity to tdeconstructive relationship European novel; the intertextuality of African literature.

Primary Readings: 1)1) Gly1) Glyne Griffith Metaphysics and the Other:1) Glyne Griffith Metaphysics Contradictions

> 2)2) André Lefevere The Historiography of African Literature Writ2) André Lefevere **English**

Further Reading:

1) Chinua Achebe The African Writer and the English Language 2) Ngugi Wa Thiong o The Language of African Literature

#### WEEK SEVEN

#### Marxism

Session One Hegel sHegel s idealistidealist and dialectical view of view of History; M view of materialist inversion of Hege inversion of Hegels m inversion of Hegels Base/Superstructure m mod model; the stages of history; the economic modemode of production; the meameans or or forces of production; the socsocialsocial relations of production; the contradiction between the means means and the social relations and the social relations means thethe (dominant)) ideology false consciousness classclass conflict and revolution; adapting the Base/superstructure model; adapting the Base/superstructure model to context in order to take into account the race factor (Fanon).

**Primary Readings:** 1) G.W.F. Hegel History as the Self-Realization of Spirit

- 2) Karl Marx The Economic Sources of Consciousness
- 3) ---. From The German Ideology
- 4)4) ---. From the Pre4) ---. From the Preface to A A Contribution to the Critique **Economy**
- 5) ---. Social Reality as Class Struggle
- 6) Frantz Fanon Extract from The Wretched of the Earth

- Secondary Readings: 1) Robert Tucker Introduction to The Marx/Engels Reader
  - 2) Terry Eagleton Chapter 1 of his Marxism and Literary Criticism 3) Eric Williams The Origin of Negro Slavery (in his Capitalism and Slavery)
  - 4) Samuel Yeboah Ideology of Racism--the Origin of Rac ial Prejudice (in his The Ideology of Racism)

Further Reading:

- 1) Karl Marx The German Ideology (in Tucker, ed. The Marx/Engels Reader)
- 2) ---. The Communist Manifesto (in Tucker, ed. The Marx/Engels Reader)
- 3) Friedrich Engels Letters on Historical Materia lism (in Tucker, ed. The Marx/Engels Reader)
- 4) Aimé Césaire From Discourse on Colonia lism (in Chrisman and Williams, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory)
- 5) George Lamming Politics and Culture (in his Conversations: Essays, Addresses and Interviews)

SessionSessionApploging Marx s model of societyApplying Marx s model of society to theApplying Marx s model

Marxism and HegeliaHegelianHegelianHegelianMarxisHegelianMarxism; Lukács notion of the reflection is re-presenting typical chiral thethe essence of the cocontradiction peculiar to a particular stage of history; the influence of the author s class consciousnesshistory; the influence of the author s class consciousnesshistory; the capacitycapacity to faithfully reproduce the real conditionreal conditions real conditions of extendition in the real condition of realist writers;

Practical practical application and practical application and thereof the application and the real conditions of the re

practical application and practical application and theractical application and the tradition; Lukács hostradition; Lukács hostility tradition; Lukács hostility towards Mesake aesthetic.

Primary Readings: 1) Georg Lukács Historical Truth in Fiction

- 2) ---. Extract from The Historical Novel on Shakespeare
- 3) ---. The Ideology of Modernism

Secondary Readings: 1) Terry Eagleton Chapter 2 of his Marxism and Literary Criticism

Tony Bennett Formalism and Marxism
 Frederic Jameson Marxism and Form

Further Reading: 1) Georg Lukács Art and Objective Truth (in his Writer and Critic)

2) ---. The Historical Novel

# Tutorial topics:

- 1.1. Discuss what a Marxist understands by the following 1. Discuss what a Marxist understands by the following of of production; a stage of history; the dialectical development oof production; a stage of history; the dominant ideology; literature.
- 2. Give 2. Give a brief account of the ways in which Marxist cr2. Give a brief account of the ways to Base/superstructure model to the criticism of literary texts.
- 3. What3. What exactly does Lukács3. What exactly does Lukács mean when he3. What exactly does Lukács mean who realists realists who have sought to capture the typicality of the people who inhabit a particular stage of history?
- 4. Give a brief account of Lukács explication of the phenomenon called Modernism

### WEEK EIGHT

# The Dialogical Critique of Saussurean Linguistics

Monologism versus DialogDialogism; the Bakhtinian notion of; the Bakhtinian notion of discour langualanguage language islanguage is not an abstract system used in isolation from the lived contingencies contingencies of social lifecontingencies of social life; lacontingencies of social placplaceplace and time by specific individuals; language as necessaplace and time by specific ideologically inflected; heteroglossia; hybridity.

Primary Readings: 1) The Bakhtin Circle Critique of Saussurian Linguistics

2) ---. Language as Dialogic Interaction

## 3) ---. Social Heteroglossia

<u>Session Two</u> Literature Literature as Literature as discourse (heteroglot); *polyphony*;; *double-voidouble-discourse*;; literature as; literature as a langue consisting of the dialogic interaction ofof the paroles (ideological worldof the paroles (ideological world-viof the paroles (ideological sub-groups; the social situatedness of sub-groups; the social situatedness as a process of *productive activation*;; the; the existence of *interpretative communities*.

**Primary Readings:** 1) The Bakhtin Circle Literature as Ideological Form

- 2) ---. Dostoevsky s Polyphonic Novel: a Plurality of Consciousnesses
- 3) --- Double-Voiced Discourse in Dostoevsky
- 4) ---. The Heteroglot Novel
- 5) Tony Bennett Texts, Readers and Reading Formations

## **WEEK NINE**

Imperialist Discourse and Post-Colonial Counter-discourse

SessionSessionTone imilarities and the The similarities and the differences between the Derridean notionThe similarities intertextuality intertextuality and the Bakhtinian notion of hybridity; hybridity as an undermining undermining of all notions of the pure, the authentic and the self-contained; contained; imperial discourse as containing the seeds of its contained; imperial discourse and undoing; mimicry and imitation as a means of conte as a means of contesting i as a means of authority authority (Bhabha); discourse anauthority (Bhabha); discourse and authority (Bhabha) necesnecessary necessary social situatedness within the Post-Colonial context of both thethe writthe writer anthe writer and the reader; meaning as a function of production as muchmuch as of consumption (the productive activation (the productive activation of the text(the preader); reader); hence, can the wreader); hence, can the writer of another another culture? canother culture? can a reader of one culture understand a difficultural reality being communicated in a text? (Ashcroft).

Primary Readings: 1) Homi Bhabha Signs Taken for Wonders

- 2) Helen Tiffin Post-colonial Literatures and Counter-Discourse
- 3) Bill Ashcroft Constitutive Graphonomy

Further Reading: 1) Helen Tiffin Post-colonial Literatures and Counter-Discourse (in Kunapipi 9.3 [1987])

Session Session Pilawtocal Practical applications: Wide Sargasso Sea, Annie Annie John and and Jane Jane and Louisa Louisa Woll Louisa Will Louisa Will Soon Louisa Will Soon Louisa Will Soon Come! the literary production of black (American) women writers as consisting consisting in a dialogic interaction with (non) hegemeonsisting in a dialogic interaction with discourse that is both adversarial and conciliatory.

Primary Readings: 1) Glyne Griffith Deconstructing Stereotypes: Jane Rhys

2) Evelyn O Callaghan Post- it Notes: Post-colonial Feminist Readings

3)3) Mae 3) Mae Gwendolyn Henderson Speaking in Tongues: Dialogics, Dialectics and the Black Woman Writer s Literary Tradition

### **WEEK TEN**

# A Marxist Model of Postmodernism and Post-Colonialism

Session One ThTheThe impact of Saussurean linThe impact of Saussurean linguistics upon traditional

approaches to literary criticism: rethinking the relationship between texttext and socio-historical context (Barthext and socio-historical context (Barthes);text of of the of the referent; the three horizons of interpretation; Postmodernism asas theas the cultural product of a particular stage of history: la

PostmodernismPostmodernism qua the transcending of High Postmodernism qua the tran antihumanismantihumanism of Postmodernism and the challenge toantihumanism of Postmo legitimating legitimating narratlegitimating narratives of Western civilisation; legitimati allegory; allegory; Post-Colonialism and multinationallegory; Post-Colonialism and multinationallegory; Post-Colonialism literary works as national allegories.

- **Primary Readings:** 1) Roland Barthes Myth Today
  - 2) Frederic Jameson On Literature as a Socially Symbolic Act
  - 3) ---. The Second Horizon of Interpretation
  - 4) ---. Postmodernism and Consumer Society
  - 5) ---. Third World Literature in the Era of Multinational Capitalism

Secondary Readings: 1) William C. Dowling <u>Jameson</u>, <u>Althusser and Marx: an Introduction to The Political Unconscious</u>

Further Reading: 1) Frederic Jameson The Political Unconscious: Literature as a Socially Symbolic Act

2) ---. Postmodernism: or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism: Chapter One

2) Terry Eagleton Capitalism, Modernism and Postmodernism (in New Left Review 152 [1985])

Session Two Re-emphasising Re-emphasising tRe-emphasising the referent of the Post-ColonialisRe-emph irreducibleirreducible material basis of the Post-Colonial project: resistance againstagainst the lingering social effects oagainst the lingering social effects of against exploitation exploitation that was colonialism (Slemon); responding exploitation that was colonialism theorisation theorisation of Postmodernism theorisation of Postmodernism and Post-Colonialism: is PostmodernismPostmodernism the same as the PosPostmodernism the same as the F postrealism; postrealism; postnativist politics; postoptimism postrealism; postnativist po challenging the grandchallenging the grand legitimating narrativeschallenging the grand aa humanist perspective (Appia humanist perspective (Appiaha humanist perspective (Appia Otherness Otherness implicit in Otherness implicit in Jameson's Otherness implicit in Jameso allegoriesallegories (Ahmad); applying Jameallegories (Ahmad); applying Jameson allegories context: reading Africantext: reading African context: reading African literature in te (JanMohammed), Post-Colonial allegory (Slemon).

Primary Readings: 1) Stephen Slemon Modernism s Last Post

- 2) Kwame Anthony Appiah The Postcolonial and the Postmodern
- 3)3) Aijaz Ahmad Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness 3) Aijaz Ahmad Jameson's

# Allegory

4)4) Ab4) Abdu4) Abdul JanMohammed Introduction and Conclusion to Manichea Aesthetics

5)5) Stephen Slemon Monuments o5) Stephen Slemon Monuments of Emp5) Stephen Post-Colonial Writing

## WEEK ELEVEN

### Foucauldian Discourse Analysis

Session One The The similarities and the differences between FoucauThe similarities and the differences b discourse,, on the one hand, and Bakhtin s, on the one hand, and Bakhtin s use of that, on the one ha butbut important differences between Foucault's notion of discourse and

thethe Marxist notion of ideology: the Marxist notion of ideology: a) there is nothe Marxist notion mystifications mystifications of ideology (humans manufacture dmystifications of ideology various various subjects which then determine what is to be taken as tvarious subjects which truth), truth), b) one must seek to understand soc truth), b) one must seek to understand inequityinequity (as wellinequity (as well asinequity (as well as the ideological discourses which s oror justifyor justify these) not as the consequence of a par ofof affairs --hof affairs --hierof affairs --hierarchical social relations and a certain distribution o economiceconomic wealth are fostered by the circulationeconomic wealth are fostered by the circu inin society which paint such a situation as inevitable or the norm, and

c)c) these discourses that dictate the truth are the fc) these discourses that dictate the truth are whichwhich is not the possession solelywhich is not the possession solely which is not the po particular particular segment of society; the asymmetrical distribution of power

isis a much more complicated affair thanis a much more complicated affair than tis a much 1 clasclass-system class-system would have us believe; the goal, in short, is not understandunderstand the *origin* of discourses that purport to dictate the truth onon anon any subject but, rather, their function; there is no truth on any

subject:subject: rather, effects of truth are secured by a cer are secured by a certa are secured policing;; the way in which discursive practidiscursive practices discipline bodies in orderorder to fashion order to fashion subjects out of individuals (the pr

oror subjectification); the importance of surveillance in this regard; the influenceinfluence of Nietzsche s notion of the Will-to-Power andinfluence of Nietzsche s notion o

Truth on Foucault; genealogical analysis.

Primary Readings: 1) Michel Foucault Two Lectures

**Session Two** Assimilating Foucauldian Discourse Analysis.

**Primary Readings:** 1) Michel Foucault Truth and Power

Secondary Readings: 1) Alan Sheridan Michel Foucault: the Will to Truth

2) Paul Rabinow Introduction to The Foucault Reader

1) Friedrich Nietzsche On the Genealogy of Morals **Further Reading:** 

2) ---. The Will to Power

3) Michel Foucault The Order of Things

- 4) ---. The Archae ology of Knowle dge
- 5) ---. Discipline and Punishment
- 6) ---. The History of Sexuality (vols. 1, 2, 3)
- 7) ---. Nietzsche, Genealogy, History (in Paul Rabinow, ed. The Foucault Reader)
- 8) ---. The Discourse on Language (in Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since 1965)
- 9) ---. What is an Author? (in Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since 1965)

#### WEEK TWELVE

### Post-Colonial Theory meets Foucault

Session One Understanding Understanding how European discoUnderstanding how European discourse writings writings of all kinds, literary, scientwritings of all kinds, literary, scientific, ev constructed constructed the Orientaconstructed the Oriental inconstructed the Oriental in a certa insinscruinscrutable, inscrutable, lazy, shifty, etc.); the primary function of Orientalist discourse: the validation of the discourse: the validation of the Ediscourse: the validation OrientalOriental other); applying Said's thoughts on Orientalism to other geographic areas colonised by Europe.

### Primary Readings: 1) Edward Said From Orientalism

Secondary Readings: 1) Denis Porter Orientalism and its Problems (in Chrisman and Williams, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory)

2) Aijaz Ahmad Orientalism and After (in Chrisman and Williams, eds. Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory)

Further Reading:

- 1) Edward Said Orientalism
- 2) ---. Culture and Imperia lism
- 3) ---. The World, the Text and the Critic 4) V.Y. Mudimbe The Invention of Africa

Session Two Foucauldian discoFoucauldian discourse analysis as best applied to a wide bodyF writings writings that purport to dictate the truth of a particwritings that purport to dictate individualindividual texts as best underindividual texts as best understooindividual texts as best widerwider political project; canonical literatwider political project; canonical literature a colonialist colonialist project (i.e. playing an indispensable rolecolonialist project (i.e. playing an indispensable rol aimsaims of imperialist discourseaims of imperialist discourse and constructing a certain image of colonies colonies and the colonial colonies and the colonial subjeccolonies and the colonial su Mansfild Mansfield Park (Said); applying Foucault to Post-Colonial I (Said); applying Foucau Post-Colonial Post-Colonial counter-discourse in the Foucauldian Post-Colonial counter-discourse i (Tiffin);

Primary Readings: 1) Edward Said Jane Austen and Empire

2)2) Helen Tiffin Rites of Resistance: Counte2) Helen Tiffin Rites of Resistance: Co Biography

#### WEEK THIRTEEN

# The Postmodernist and the Post-Colonial Critique of Historical Objectivity

Session One The The subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of the subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of the subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of the subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of the subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of the subjective nature of historical inquiry; the literary nature of historical inquiry nature of historica historical text; the indispensabilihistorical text; the indispensability historical text Northrop Northrop Frye s view of the circulation Northrop Frye s view of the circulation of certain No formsforms which structure our interpretation of the worforms which structure our interpretation whichwhich our interpretationwhich our interpretation which our interpretation of the past is narrativenarrative form which we use (White);narrative form which we use (White); how the truly White sWhite s critique of White s critique of traWhite s critique of traditional historiograph takingtaking into account Saussure s critique otaking into account Saussure s critique otaking into a Derrida s, Derrida s, in turn, Derrida s, in turn, of Saussure; the importance in this regard of Derrida s intointo consideration Bakhtin s critique of Saussurean linguistics:

language language is always language is always in use by specific people at a particular people (Clarke).

Primary Readings: 1) Hayden White The Historical Text as Literary Artifact

2)2) Richard Clarke2) Richard Clarke Extract from The Literary Nature of the Historical SomeSome Implications of PostmodeSome Implications of PostmodernismSome Imp

**Session Two** The Post-Colonial Response to White *et. al.*: the *woworldlineworldliness* of of the texttext (Said); given the fictional nature oftext (Said); given the fictional nature of all histories, the of literary fictions to the process of rewriting Eurocentric histories.

Primary Readings: 1) Edward Said The World, the Text and the Critic

- 2)2) Helen Tiffin Post-Colonialism,2) Helen Tiffin Post-Colonialism, Post-Colonial History
- 3)3) Evelyn O Callaghan Historical Fiction and Fict3) Evelyn O Callaghan Historical Phillips Cambridge

Further Reading: 1) Hayden White Metahistory

2) ---. The Content of the Form

3) ---. The Question of Narra tive in Contemporary Historic al Theory (in Mark Currie, ed. Metafiction)

4)4) Louis Mink4) Louis Mink Narrative Form as a Cognitive4) Louis Mink Narrative Form as a Cognitive Instrument (in Robert H. Canary and Henry Kozicki, Form and Historical Understanding