LOCALISM, GLOBALISM AND POSTCOLONIAL DISCOURSE

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Course description

The aim of the course is to introduce approaches of coloniality and postcoloniality into the study of contemporary collisions of local and global. We will consider state, social and cultural transformations through a postcolonial perspective, focusing on three aspects – identity, citizenship and ideology. The key binary categories in postcolonial theorisation, such as hegemony and resistance, and state versus civil society, will be examined along with localised strategies of adaptation, accommodation and collaboration.

Students will be asked to reach conclusions about what modifications of cultural identity, citizenship and ideology, if any, are called for in a globalised world by postcolonial discourse and practice. In the course of doing so, they will have to become aware of the different trends in postcoloniality as well as applications of postcolonial theories and critiques, as well as transnational perspectives on race, ethnicity and culture.

Required texts


*Citizenship and National Identity from Colonialism to Globalism.* 1997


**Course prerequisites**

The course is geared for graduate students who have had courses in political science, social philosophy. English is required.

**Course requirements**

**Attendance** of all classes is required, because of their interactive character. You can be absent no more than three class periods.

**Participation in Class** (10%) is required. Your active participation in all class discussions reflects your understanding of the problems discussed.

**Essays** (3*15%): After each set of the problems discussed you will be required to write 4-5 pages essay in order to demonstrate your understanding of the topic, ability to explain the basic theories and their applications to the historical reality as well as your analytical thinking beyond the required readings.

**Article analysis** (10%): during the classes you will be asked to find, locate and analyze an article of regional media production concerning problems discussed (cultural identity, solidarity formation, multicultural policy etc.).

**Presentation** (15%): In small groups, you will prepare a short presentation of the case of a chosen state model to illustrate the basic concepts and theories at work..

**Final paper** (20%): by the end of the classes you will be asked to write 12-15 pages essay in order to summarize the key points of the class sets, analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the basic theoretical constructions and their applications to different historical and state models.
1. Introducing Postoloniality: Concepts and Categories

We begin the course with an overview of the concepts, notions and transformations of postcolonial studies. As soon as postcoloniality is linked with the historical period of imperialism and colonial development, first we describe historical issues of Modern Europe and discuss some basic notions such as Empire, Colony, Imperialism. Then we continue with postcolonial transformations after WWII, trying to find out the European and Subaltern roots of the contemporary Postcolonial intellectual discourse. Finally, we discuss transformations of this discourse by the end of 20th century.

**Week 1: Empires and colonies: notions, concepts and practices**

Reading:
- Cooper, Frederick. *Tensions of empire: colonial cultures in a bourgeois world*. 1997
- Suggested reading: *Citizenship and National Identity from Colonialism to Globalism*. 1997

**Week 2. What is Postcolonialism?...as historical epoch/condition, epistemology, literary genre**

Reading:

**Week 3: Dominance and Resistance: Subaltern Studies**

Reading:
Week 4: Postcolonialism Reconsidered

Reading:


2. **Set One - Cultural Identity in Postcolonial Perspective** - examines a range of transformations which are described by authors as hybridization, including special representation, autonomy and cosmopolitanism

The first set of the problems concerns transformations of cultural identity. We pay attention to the theoretical question of cultural identity formation and its connection with the problem of “glocalisation”, meant global-local collisions. Then we take a look onto the identity transformations of the former colonies, including processes of enclavisation, diasporisation and hybridization. As well as these procedures have dual character, we demonstrate what the reaction of Europe is (“provincialization”, nationalism movements etc.)

Week 5. Narratives and Memory: Constructing Cultural Identity.

Reading:

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. Verso, 2000

Week 6. Do Subalterns speak?

Reading:


Week 7. Identity Reconsidered

Reading:


Postcolonial Wales/ed. by Jane Aaron and Chris Williams. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2005

3. **Set Two - Erosion of Citizenship** - considered as the relationship of developers and to-be-developed, hybridized forms of knowledge as a reason of transformation of citizenship, that is transnational social relations.

First, we look at the basic theories of citizenship in order to find out the most important concepts included. Then we should discuss the problem of erosion of this phenomenon, such as flexibility, mutations, situational erosion as the results of the new imperialism and colonialism.

Week 8. Citizenship and Belonging
Reading:

*Citizenship and National Identity from Colonialism to Globalism.* 1997


Weeks 9 & 10. Erosions of Citizenship

Reading:


4. **Set Three - problems of cultural imperialism** - defines the most important source of the intercultural communications in Europe as well as multicultural tendencies as European expansion of the world. This Set is used to pull together the first and second sets of topics respectively by looking at group rights and multicultural models in policy.

We begin with the historical introduction to the Multiculturalism, trying to look at this concept as connected with the main characteristics of the process of globalisation (celebration of cultural diversity values, ideological ground of the new policy standard on the one side, and new imperial movement on the other).
Week 11. History of Multiculturalism

Reading:


Week 12. Multiculturalism and New Imperialism.

Reading:


Week 13. Cosmopolitan Locations.

Reading:

