

Course Description Form

Course number and section: ENGL 379

Course Topic: Colonialism and Decolonization

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: David Jefferess

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

This course examines the cultural project of European colonialism as well as resistance against colonialism. The course foregrounds the perspectives of activists, creative writers, and theorists from Africa, South Asia, West Asia (aka “the Middle East”), the Caribbean, and Indigenous nations of Turtle Island who are active in the project of social, economic, political, and cultural decolonization. Historical and contemporary arguments and examples are discussed in relation to one another in a way that highlights intersectionality: e.g. the white saviour complex, struggles for the return of land; exploitation of people/nature. The approach to the course emphasizes critical self-reflection and collaboration, and seeks to understand how the theories and concepts we study are relevant to our own lives. Note: Course texts include representations of violence and abuse.

Tentative Reading List: (Be as concise as possible with your reading list, but please also specify the genre of each required text. See sample below.)

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (Novel; Rhodesia/Zimbabwe)

Essays, short fiction, life writing, poetry, advertisements, etc., available in a Custom Coursepack and online.

Other: This course is cross-listed with CULT 340