TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI
VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

MDIA 409
Postcolonial Media Cultures

Trimester 1 2010
30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break:	5 April to 18 April 2010
Study week:	7 June to 11 June
Last piece of assessment due:	Tuesday, 15th June 2010

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Jo Smith
Phone: 463-6801
Room 211, 42-44 Kelburn Parade
Office Hours: Tuesday 1—3 pm
Email: jo.smith@vuw.ac.nz

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Thursday	Time: 1-2:50	Room Number: 42 KP 101

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be delivered as a weekly seminar and will involve formal presentations and extensive discussions. Students are to complete reading assigned for each week before the seminar.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and resources about the course are available on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

Drawing on the critical perspective offered by postcolonial studies, this course investigates how histories of colonial encounter help shape contemporary media practices (television, film, new media) as well as how current forces of globalisation disrupt and/or continue social and political inequities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate:

1. techniques of scholarship and critical analysis appropriate to future postgraduate studies. These include critically engaging with the academic literature; developing research questions and research projects; and present research outcomes in written and oral forms.
2. an ability to analyse and articulate the relation between the scholarship in the field of postcolonial studies and specific media examples.
3. an ability to analyse and contextualise discourses of individual, societal, historical and technological transformations in the context of postcolonial media.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

This course is worth 30 points, & expectations are that one point equates to 10 hours of work, spread over the trimester.

READINGS

Compulsory and recommended readings will be available on Blackboard.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is 100% internal and has 3 components. Given the necessity for external moderation of all work produced by BA Hons students, any grades given during the course need to be regarded as **provisional**, with grades being finalised immediately following the completion of the external moderation process.

1. Critical Analysis Assignment
Value: 30% (Covering material from week 1-5)
Length: 1500 words
Due 1.00pm Wednesday 31st March (Drop Box at Media Studies Office)

2. Research Proposal
Value: 20%
Length: 1500 words
Paper version of proposal to be submitted by 1pm on Wednesday 12th May (Drop Box at Media Studies Office) and presented in-class (10 min) on Thursday 13th May (week 9).

3. Research Essay
Value: 50%
Length: 3000 words
Due 1.00 pm, **Tuesday 15th** June (Drop Box at Media Studies Office)

Research Essay Information

For MDIA409 you are to devise and write one research essay that discusses themes and concepts addressed on the course. Whatever topic you devise, this essay must show active engagement with the critical and theoretical ideas discussed in class and in the course readings and as found through independent research. You should discuss your research topic with me *well in advance* of week 9 when the research proposal is due.

Research Proposal Information

Your research proposal should include the following:
i) Essay title and topic (including a clear thesis statement).
This is a clear statement of the essay's thesis or the critical question it addresses.

ii) 100 word project summary
This is a brief 100-word summary of the essay in clear, plain English using the minimum of terminology unique to the area of study.

iii) Statement of aims, research plan and method;
This is a detailed description of what the essay will achieve and how it will accomplish this.

(This is the most detailed part of the proposal. In articulating the aims of your essay, you should describe what you hope to achieve, discover or explore, and how your essay is related to other studies in the field. You might find it useful to pose the questions you are seeking to answer in your essay. As opposed to the project summary, in this section you are writing for people familiar with the field, so you can use more specialized vocabulary, and dispense with the need to explain basic assumptions and background. In articulating the research plan and methodology of your essay, you should describe the key terms of your inquiry and explain how you define them. How many sections do you anticipate? What will happen in each section? What kind of critical approach will you take? What primary and secondary texts will be most important to your essay? What conceptual frameworks will you be adopting and why? What are the scope and limits of your inquiry?)

iv) Annotated bibliography (4 to 6 key articles)
"Annotation" in this context does not mean an abstract or summary: rather, it means a brief description of the article or book and an indication of how and why you think it will be useful in your own essay. You should format the bibliography according to Media Studies essay writing guidelines (on Blackboard). This won't necessarily represent your final bibliography for the essay.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Penalties

Assignments submitted after the deadline without a written extension will be penalised at a rate of 2% (out of a total of 100) per working day. In other words, if you get 50% for an assignment, after one day your grade will drop to 48%, then 46% the following day etc. Late assignments are likely to receive limited feedback. The weekend counts for one day (i.e. an assignment due on Friday that is submitted on Monday will receive a 2% penalty). Please ensure that you are aware of the time that your assignment is due, as well as the date, as this is the cut-off time utilised in calculating lateness penalties.

Extensions

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This

must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the Internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

*this schedule is subject to change

Week 1	**Introduction** Poster, Mark. 2007. "Postcolonial Theory in the Age of Planetary Communications." *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. 24: 4, 379-393.
Week 2	**Colonial Manichaeism and Anti-colonial Struggle** Fanon, Frantz. 1986. "The Fact of Blackness". In *Black Skins, White Masks*, 109-140. London: Pluto. Moore, Lindsey C. 2003. "The Veil of Nationalism: Frantz Fanon's 'Algeria Unveiled' and Gillo Pontecorvo's *The Battle of Algiers*". *Kunapipi: Journal of Post-Colonial Writing* 25 (2): 56-73. Sartre, Jean-Paul. 1963. "Preface". In *The Wretched of the Earth*, 7-31. New York: Grove Press. Screening (A/V Centre): Pontecorvo, Gillo *The Battle of Algiers*. (1966).
Week 3	**Orientalism and other Others** Said, Edward W. 1995. "Introduction". In *Orientalism*, 1-28. London: Penguin Book. Original edition 1978. ---. 2001. "Orientalism Reconsidered". In *Reflections on Exile*, 198-215. London: Granta Books. Maxwell, Anne. 1999. "Beyond the Native Belle". In *Colonial Photography and Exhibitions*,165-191. London and New York: Leicester University Press.
Week 4	**Postcolonial Hauntings** Bhabha, Homi K. 1994. "The Other Question". In *The Location of Culture*, 66-84. London and New York: Routledge. Chow, Rey. 2001. "A Phantom Discipline". *PMLA* 116 (5):1386-1395. Turcotte, Gerry. "Specrality in Indigenous Women's Cinema: Tracey Moffatt and Beck Cole*". Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 43 (1): 7-21. Screening (A/V Centre): Moffatt, Tracey *beDevil* (1994).
Week 5	**The New Subaltern and Indigenous Media Practices** Meeuf, Russell. 2007. "Critical Localism, Ethical Cosmopolitanism and Atanarjuat". *Third Text* 21 (6):733-744. Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. 2005. "Scattered Speculations on the Subaltern and the Popular". *Postcolonial Studies* 8 (4): 475-486. Screening (A/V Centre): Kunuk, Zacharias *Atanarjuat* (2001).
	* **Critical Analysis Assignment due 1.00pm Wednesday 31st March**
	Mid Trimester Break
Week 6	**The Postcolonial Exotic in a Settler Context** Huggan, Graham. 2001. Introduction: Writing at the Margins. In *The Postcolonial Exotic: Marketing the Margins*, vii-33. London and New York: Routledge. Huijser, Henk. 2004. "Representing Multiculturalism in a Bicultural Nation". *International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations* 4:395-401. Screening (A/V Centre): Urale, Sima Apron Strings (2008).
Week 7	**Reading Week**
Week 8	**Media Necropower** Devadas, Vijay. 2008. "15 October 2007, Aotearoa: Race, Terror and Sovereignty". *Sites: New Series* 5 (1): 1-28. Osuri, Goldie. 2006. "Media Necropower: Australian Media Reception and the Somatechnics of Mamdouh Habib". *Borderlands e-journal* 5 (1). http://www.borderlands.net.au/vol5no1_2006/osuri_necropower.htm.
Week 9	*Presentation of Research Proposals**
Week 10	**Postcolonial Digital Culture** Hillis-Miller, J. 2003. "The Indigene and the Cybersurfer". *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature* 34 (1):31-52. Schiway, Freya. 2009. "Digital Ghosts, Global Capitalism and Social Change". *Social Identities* 15 (3):313-330.
Week 11	**Community and Ethics** Diprose, Rosalyn. 2008. "Where' Your People From, Girl?": Belonging to Race, Gender, and Place *Beneath Clouds*. *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 19 (5): 28-57. Hage, Ghassan. 2003. "The Shrinking Society: Ethics and Hope in the Era of Global Capitalism." *Complex Entanglements: art, globalisation and cultural difference*, 221-228. ed. Nikos Papastergiadis. London, Sydney, Chicago: Rivers Oram Press. Screening (A/V Centre): Sen, Ivan *Beneath Clouds*. (2001).
Week 12	**Conclusions & Research Essay trouble shooting. *Research Essay due 1pm 15th June.**