

# Postcolonial National Cultures from Australia to Canada

BMNAN16100A

Kinga Földvály and Mária Palla

**Time:** Tuesdays 10:15–11.45 (107/B), 12.30–14.00 (104)

**Place:** MS Teams (February), DAN 107/B, 104

**Availability:** [foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:foldvary.kinga@btk.ppke.hu), office hour: Monday 12.30-14.00 by email arrangement  
[palla.maria@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:palla.maria@btk.ppke.hu), office hour: Thursday 12:30-13:30 by email arrangement

The course will explore the historical and literary development of English-speaking cultures in some of the former colonies of the British Empire from a postcolonial perspective. Classes will mainly concentrate on the literature of the colonial and postcolonial period in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries until our present day—during and after colonial expansion.

## Schedule:

Week 1 (15 Feb) Introduction, requirements. What do we mean by postcolonialism? (FK)  
Discovery vs occupation: John Marsden & Shaun Tan: *The Rabbits*

Week 2 (22 Feb) Convicts and migrants: the foundations of Australian society (FK)  
**Read:** Shaun Tan: *The Arrival*; Thomas Keneally: *Australians*, vol.1, Origins to Eureka (Chapters 27-30)

Week 3 (1 Mar) Challenging encounters (FK)  
**Read:** David Malouf: *An Imaginary Life*

Week 4 (8 Mar) The literature of a new homeland: old forms, new topics (FK)  
**Read:** Selection of Australian poems and stories

Week 5 (15 Mar) **NATIONAL HOLIDAY**

Week 6 (22 Mar) Writing back to the Empire: postcolonial reflections on the canon (FK)  
**Read:** Lloyd Jones: *Mister Pip*

Week 7 (29 Mar) **Mid-Term test + watching a film** (*Tracks* (dir. John Curran, 2013) / *Rabbit-Proof Fence* (dir. Phillip Noyce, 2002) (FK)

Week 8 (5 Apr) Introduction, requirements. What makes Canada postcolonial? (PM)  
**Read:** “O, Canada”; Molson Canada, “I AM CANADIAN” (The Rant)  
**EASTER BREAK**

Week 9 (26 Apr) Neo-colonialism in Canada: the threat from the south (PM)  
**Read:** Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing*  
Québec, a distinct society

**Read:** Roch Carrier, “What Language Do Bears Speak?”  
Week 10 (3 May) The legacy of British imperialism: The settler mentality (PM)  
**Read:** Northrop Frye, “Conclusion to *A Literary History of Canada*”—excerpt  
**Read:** Susanna Moodie, *Roughing It in the Bush*--excerpts;  
**Read:** Margaret Atwood, *The Journals of Susanna Moodie*--selected poems  
The Group of Seven (painting in Canada)

Week 11 (10 May) Canadian multiculturalism (PM)  
**Read:** Rohinton Mistry, “Squatter”;  
**Read:** Dione Brand, “Blossom”

Week 12 (17 May) The indigenous people of Canada (PM)  
**Read:** Duncan Campbell Scott, “The Onondaga Madonna”; Armand Garnet Ruffo, “Poem for Duncan Campbell Scott”; Maria Campbell, “Jacob”  
Mini Aodla Freeman, *Life Among the Qallunaat*--excerpts

**Assessment** is based on the following components:

- Regular preparation for class (reading, viewing assignments)
- One in-class test on Australia
- Short presentations (one about Australia, one about Canada)
- Two argumentative essays on Canada to be uploaded as assignments in Teams (800-1000 words) OR one argumentative essay and an additional presentation on Canada
- Active participation: “if you never speak in class, you will not get a 5!”

You must **not miss more than three seminars**, and even if you missed a class, you must **come prepared** for the next one.

**Readings for the semester:**

All readings can be found in the group’s MS Teams platform.