Sop 202, PPCU, Autumn 2016

**Introduction to Postcolonial Writing**

BBLAN23100

Instructor: Mária Palla (mariabj.palla@gmail.com)

**Course content:** This lecture course aims to familiarize students with one particular trend in twentieth century English literature by introducing four major novels in the field to them. Changes in the approach to colonial times will be charted as the novels will be read closely, related historical and biographical details will be discussed and some key themes, concepts and terms of postcolonial criticism will be studied and applied to these works of fiction. Since its emergence in the 1980s, postcolonial studies has focussed on questions that deal with a number of historical and cultural conflicts that impact our present. While they spring from the colonialism of the previous centuries, they shed light on the globalization debates of today.

**Schedule of classes:**

Sep 24, 13:15-15:30. Introduction of key ideas in postcolonial studies.

 An émigré writer at the turn of the century: Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Oct 22, 13:15 -14:45. Modernism, feminism, postcolonialism: liminality and displacement.

 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Nov 5, 13:15-14:45. The colour bar in Doris Lessing’s *The Grass is Singing*

Nov 19, 15:00-17:15. Metafiction, metahistory, hybridity.

 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight’s Children*

**Required reading:**

McLeod, John. “Introduction.” *The Routledge Companion to Postcolonial Studies*. Ed. John McLeod. Milton Park: Routledge, 2007. pp. 1-17.

The four novels listed above

**Recommended reading:**

Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin*. Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*. 2nd ed. Milton Park: Routledge, 2007.

Lazarus, Neil, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*. Cambridge: CUP, 2004.

**Assessment**: oral exam based on

1. the interpretation of quotations selected by the student from the novels and relevant to the postcolonial context of the course (30 %)

2. the discussion of a topic from a list to be announced later (70%)