**BMNAN12700A - Introduction to Postcolonial Theory**

**Dr. Michael McAteer and Dr. János Barcsák**

**Thursday, 14.15-17.30. Tárogató 103, PPKE Budapest**

The course introduces students to the theoretical issues related to postcolonial studies. We will trace the development of postcolonial thought from its foundations in Edward Said and Franz Fanon’s analyses of colonial discourses and colonial circumstances, particularly through Said’s concept of “Orientalism”. In the second half of the seminar, we will look at the influence of critical theory, especially Jacques Derrida’s method in poststructuralism, for the development of postcolonialism. Basic concepts and critical strategies of the theory will be explained and we will examine some important intersections with other theoretical approaches. These include not only poststructuralism, but also feminism, psychoanalysis and Marxism. The place of postcolonialism in the field of cultural studies will also be addressed. Apart from these strictly theoretical considerations, we will also discuss how the critical strategies of postcolonial thought can be applied in the study of various cultural phenomena and especially in the study of literary texts. Therefore, besides supplying theoretical context for the study of postcolonial culture and literature, the lectures also provide students with an array of methodological tools that they will be able to deploy in their own individual analyses of postcolonial (and other) cultural phenomena and literary texts.

**Assessment:** 80% of your grade will be based on your Essay (2000-2500 words) to be submitted in class on Week 12 (Thursday May 12). 20% of your Grade will be based on your involvement in discussion during the seminars.

**NB: You are expected to attend ALL classes. If you miss one week of classes, this counts as TWO classes missed. So if you miss two weeks of class, you will NOT be allowed to complete the assessment for this course. If you cannot attend a class for reasons of illness or some other serious reason, you should notify your lecturer one week in advance. You can only get attendance credit for a class that you missed if you supply a photocopy of a doctor/medical certificate or similar document. *Please treat this matter seriously: if any problem arises for you during the term you should contact Dr. McAteer or Dr. Barcsák immediately rather than missing classes without explanation.***

**Seminar Schedule**

Week 1 - Thursday February 11 – Introduction

Week 2 - Thursday February 18 – *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Chapter 1: ‘From ‘Commonwealth’ to ‘postcolonial’ (MMc)

Week 3 - Thursday February 25 – Edward Said, *Orientalism* (MMc)

Week 4 – Thursday March 3 - *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Chapter 2: ‘Reading colonial discourses’; Joseph Lennon, *Irish Orientalism* (MMc)

Week 5 – Thursday March 10 - *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Chapter 3: ‘Nationalist Representations’ (MM); Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (MMc)

Week 6 – Thursday March 17 – (JB) Postcolonialism and New Imperialisms (MMc)

**TERM BREAK: MONDAY MARCH 21 TO FRIDAY APRIL 1**

Week 7 – Thursday April 7 – Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference* (JB)

Week 8 – Thursday April 14 - Gayatri Spivak, ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’; *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Chapter 6: ‘Postcolonialism and feminism’ (JB)

Week 9 – Thursday April 21 – Homi K. Bhaba, *The Location of Culture* (JB)

Week 10 - Thursday April 28 – *Beginning Postcolonialism*, Chapter 7: ‘Diaspora Identities’ (JB)

Week 11 - Thursday May 5 – Postcolonialism and Postmodernism (JB)

Week 12 – Thursday May 12 - Review