

# SO356-15 Postcolonial Theory and Politics

**23/24**

**Department**

Sociology

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Sivamohan Valluvan

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

An engagement of the key thinkers that have given shape to the tradition of postcolonial theory. To also explore the different themes that this theoretical body attends to: racialisation, Orientalism and culture, capitalism and global economics, feminism, secularism and religion, war and violence, nation and nationalism.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

This course is focused on developing students' ability to engage with a range of approaches that shaped postcolonial thinking and practice. The course explores the different concepts and themes proposed by different fields of postcolonial theory in order to better understand both contemporary and historical social processes – ranging from a critical understanding of the broader historical sweep of capitalism to the particularities of contemporary war, migration and nationalisms.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction: the postcolonial perspective and situation the history of colonialism

Fanon on racialisation and subjectivity

Said on Orientalism and discourse

Postcolonial challenge to sociology

Postcolonial Marxism on capitalism

Postcolonial Feminism

Postcolonialism on nationalism and cosmopolitanism

Postcolonialism on war and violence

Postcolonialism on religion and secularism

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- be familiar with contemporary debates in postcolonial theory and politics
- have developed advanced skills in reading and presenting primary texts in postcolonial theory
- understand the importance of different theoretical frameworks in postcolonial accounts of substantive contemporary political issues
- be able to critically examine major contemporary political, social, and cultural issues.

## **Interdisciplinary**

incorporates perspectives from across the humanities - with english/literary theory thinkers in particular

## **International**

Postcolonial theory assumes an explicitly global perspective and awareness.

## **Subject specific skills**

Engaging close readings of formative theoretical texts

## **Transferable skills**

Close engagement of complex written material

Written skills involved in converting complex theoretical texts into accessible written presentation

Debate and verbal skills involved in workshop activity.

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## **Study**

## Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Practical classes	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	123 hours (82%)
Total	150 hours

## Private study description

close reading of key text for each work and preparation through answering written form questions set for each reading.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
3000 word essay	100%	
Student to answer one essay question - each substantive week will have a corresponding essay question the the student may chose from.		

### Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on 1 x 100% essay

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 3 of ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology

This module is Optional for:

- USOA-L301 BA in Sociology
  - Year 3 of L301 Sociology
  - Year 3 of L301 Sociology
  - Year 3 of L301 Sociology
- Year 4 of USOA-L306 BA in Sociology (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of USOA-L314 Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology
- Year 4 of USOA-L315 Undergraduate Sociology and Criminology (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Option list A for:

- ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of ML34 Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of ML34 Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 5 of ULAA-ML35 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)