

Course description

Postcolonial Perspectives on Audiovisual Media, spring 2017

Course director: Anne Bachmann, anne.bachmann@ims.su.se / 08-674 75 38

Course start: Thursday, March 23. 12.00–14.00 in F-salen

Description:

In today's moving image culture, issues such as multiculturalism, the divide between the "west" and the "third world", and legacies of colonial stereotypes are acute and need to be assessed. Whiteness in the media, and in academic research, seems strangely invisible, representing the generic human, whereas non-whiteness easily stands out and represents specificities or added spice. In the course, these and many other tendencies are critically examined along with an introduction to postcolonial thought as a theoretical framework to rethink questions of difference and otherness. The course examines how hierarchies across and within changing national, ethnic and racialised locations are produced and potentially dislodged in western and non-western media imageries. Through various examples from around the world, we explore how "race", ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality intertwine and become valued in forms and subject matters of audiovisual narration. In addition to postcolonial theory, the course deals with related and overlapping fields of thought, such as critical studies of whiteness, intersectionality, representation, and scholarship on transnationality and diaspora, which all share an interest in challenging hegemonic ways of knowing and seeing.

Learning objectives:

After the course, students are expected to:

- Understand and critically reflect on introduced central concepts and frameworks, such as postcolonialism, multiculturalism, otherness, "race", ethnicity, and whiteness.
 - Discuss contemporary challenges in postcolonial media studies.
 - Contextualize academic debates and moving image material within broader frameworks of postcolonial history, cultural location and research.
 - Apply learned concepts and approaches to independent critical analysis of moving images.
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Assessment:

The course is examined through two research papers, two obligatory seminars, and one group project including a presentation. Each research paper represents one third of the total grade, and the group project and the two seminars the remaining third.

The research papers graded following a seven-grade scale: A (excellent), B (very good), C (good), D (satisfactory), E (sufficient), Fx (insufficient), F (entirely insufficient). All written assignments will be



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submitted through the interactive platform Mondo.

Screenings are part of the course material on a par with readings and therefore compulsory. Attendance at lectures and other groups' presentations is recommended, but not compulsory.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Corrected exams can be collected at the Student Office.

Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale. A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. Fx and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval, the course requires a minimum grade of E for the written exam and that all course requirements are met.

Examination dates:

1. 24th of May to 2nd of June
 2. 15th of August to 22nd of August (re-exam)
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