

RELS 4255/6255: Religion, Race, Nation

Meetings:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45, Classroom South 410
Instructor:	Vincent Lloyd
Contact Information:	34 Peachtree Street, 11 th Floor, #1108 404-413-6116; vlloyd@gsu.edu (preferred)
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 11am-2pm

From colonialism to black nationalism to globalization, how do the three issues of religion, race, and nation affect each other? How has religious thought dealt with issues of race, and how has the concept of race been shaped by religious thought? How do racial and religious communities differ? We will approach these questions using theory, world literature, and film.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- Identify key issues concerning the relationship between religion, race, and nation, and describe various perspectives on these issues.
- Identify, explain, and critique key theories concerning the relationship between religion, race, and nation.
- Approach a work of literature or art and discuss how it grapples with issues of religion, race, and nation.

GRADING:

- 1/3: Reading Responses

By 11am Tuesdays, e-mail the instructor and your small group a 1-2 page reflection on the readings for the week (please include it in the body of the e-mail or as a .pdf attachment, not as a .doc). You are welcome to be creative or informal, and to relate the readings to your own experiences, current events, other readings, etc., but be sure to explicitly engage with the assigned texts (citing specific passages or pages is encouraged). You may write on one or more of the readings assigned for the week (for Tuesday and/or Thursday).

- 1/3: 2 5pp Papers

Expand two reading responses into papers that put a focus text in dialogue with a theoretical reading. Graduate students should write at least one paper that engages a supplementary graduate student reading (i.e. Comaroff or Webb). Due Oct. 1 and Nov. 12.

- 1/3: Final Take-Home Exam (undergraduates) /
Final 16-20pp Paper (graduate students)

The take-home exam for undergraduates will consist of three questions, each requiring a 3-4pp response, distributed on the last day of class (12/3) and due via e-mail at noon one week later (12/10). Graduate students are encouraged to discuss their paper topics with the instructor. Graduate student papers are due via e-mail at noon on Dec. 10.

TEXTS FOR PURCHASE

- 1) Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- 2) Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
- 3) Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
- 4) Derek Walcott, *Omeros*
...for graduate students only:
- 5) Jean Comaraoff, *Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance*
- 6) Webb Keane, *Christian Moderns: Freedom and Fetish in the Mission Encounter*

OTHER READINGS:

Are available through the GSU library's "e-reserves" (go to <http://www.library.gsu.edu/services/> and click on "Find Course Reserves" from the left column; the password is 7sbrbke8F). You must bring a paper copy of the readings to class during the relevant weeks.

WORKLOAD:

Conventional wisdom holds that an undergraduate student should spend 3 hours outside of class doing readings and preparation for each hour s/he spends in class. That means you should be spending about 8 hours outside of class preparing each week. If you find yourself spending significantly more or less time, please speak with the instructor. Graduate students should spend *significantly more* than 8 hours.

THEMATIC SCHEDULE:

(subject to change)

Unit 1 – Colonialism

Theoretical Readings:

Week 1: selection from Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Week 2: Ngugi Wa Thiong'o "The Language of African Literature"

Chinua Achebe, "The African Writer and the English Language"

Week 3: Leopold Senghor, selections from "Negritude"

Focus Text:

Weeks 2-3: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Unit 2 – Violence and Liberation

Theoretical Readings:

Week 4: Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness" from *Black Skins, White Masks*
Laura Mulvey, "Xala... The Caprice that Failed"

Week 5: Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence" from *The Wretched of the Earth*
Kenneth Surin, "Liberation" from *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*

Week 6: Solanas and Gettino, "Towards a Third Cinema"

Teshome Gabriel, "Towards a Critical Theory of Third World Cinema"

Focus Text:

Weeks 4-6: Ousmane Sembène, *Ceddo, Xala, Moolaade* (films)

Unit 3 – Nations and Nationalisms

Theoretical Readings: selections from...

Week 7: Frantz Fanon, “On National Culture” from *The Wretched of the Earth*

Week 8: Benedict Anderson, selections from *Imagined Communities*

Partha Chatterjee, selections from *The Nation and Its Fragments*

Week 9: Homi Bhabha, “Narrating the Nation” and “DissemiNation”

Focus Text:

Weeks 7-9: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Unit 4 – De/Constructing Categories

Theoretical Readings: selections from...

Week 10: Edward Said, selections from *Orientalism*

Robert Young, selections from *Colonial Desire*

Week 11: Dipesh Chakraparty, selections from *Provincializing Europe*

Week 12: Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

Focus Text:

Weeks 10-12: Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Unit 5 – Postcolonial Piety

Theoretical Readings: selections from...

Week 13: Derek Walcott, “The Caribbean: Culture or Mimicry?”

Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man”

Week 14: Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora”

Week 15: Paul Gilroy, selections from *The Black Atlantic*

Focus Text:

Weeks 13-15: Derek Walcott, *Omeros* (book-length poem)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

(subject to change)

8/18	In class discussion of Césaire, <i>Notebook of a Return to the Native Land</i>
8/20	Césaire, <i>Discourse</i> on E-Res, Williams 172-180
8/25	Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Parts One and Two
	Achebe, “The African Writer” on E-Res, Williams 428-434
8/27	Ngugi Wa Thiong'o “The Language of African Literature” on E-Res, Williams 435-455
9/1	Achebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Parts Two and Three
9/3	Senghor, “Negritude” on E-Res, Williams 27-35
9/8	Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness” on E-Res
	<i>Before Class Watch Sembene’s Xala</i>
9/10	Mulvey, “Xala” on E-Res, Williams 517-534
9/9	<u>Graduate Students:</u> Comaroff, <i>Body of Power</i> , Part I

- 9/15 Fanon, "Concerning Violence" on E-Res
Before Class Watch Sembene's Ceddo
- 9/17 Surin, "Liberation" on E-Res, Taylor
- 9/22 Solanas and Gettina, "Towards a Third Cinema" on E-Res, Nichols
Before Class Watch Sembene's Moolade
- 9/24 Gabriel, "Towards a Critical..." on E-Res, Pines
- 9/23 Graduate Students: Comaroff, *Body of Power*, Parts II and III
- 9/29 Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years*, 1-140
- 10/1 Fanon, "On National Culture" on E-Res, Williams, 36-52
Paper #1 Due
- 10/6 Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years*, 141-267
Anderson, *Imagined Communities* selections on E-Res, Anderson and Ashcroft
- 10/8 Chatterjee, *Nation and Its Fragments* on E-Res, Ch. 1
- 10/13 Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years*, 269-417
- 10/15 Bhabha, "Narrating the Nation" and "DissemiNation" on E-Res
- 10/20 Roy, *God of Small Things*, 3-117
- 10/22 Said, *Orientalism*, selections on E-Res, Williams 132-149
- 10/21 Graduate Students: Keane, *Christian Moderns*, Part I
- 10/27 Roy, *God of Small Things*, 118-216
Young, *Colonial Desire*, selection on E-Res
- 10/29 Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*, selections on E-Res (x2)
- 11/3 Roy, *God of Small Things*, 217-321
- 11/5 Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" on E-Res
- 11/4 Graduate Students: Keane, *Christian Moderns*, Parts II and III
- 11/10 Walcott, *Omeros*, 1-131
Walcott, "The Caribbean" on E-Res
- 11/12 Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man" on E-Res
Paper #2 Due
- 11/17 Walcott, *Omeros*, 133-219
- 11/19 Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" on E-Res, Williams 392-403
- 12/1 Walcott, *Omeros*, 221-325
- 12/3 Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*, selections on E-Res
- 12/10 Final Exams/Papers Due

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Partha Chatterjee, selections from *The Nation and Its Fragments*

Week 9: Homi Bhabha, “Narrating the Nation” and “DissemiNation”

Focus Text:

Weeks 7-9: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Unit 4 – De/Constructing Categories

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Robert Young, selections from *Colonial Desire*

Week 11: Dipesh Chakraparty, selections from *Provincializing Europe*

Week 12: Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

Focus Text:

Weeks 10-12: Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Unit 5 – Postcolonial Piety

Theoretical Readings: selections from...

Week 13: Derek Walcott, “The Caribbean: Culture or Mimicry?”

Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man”

Week 14: Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora”

Week 15: Paul Gilroy, selections from *The Black Atlantic*

Focus Text:

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