

TOPICS IN LITERARY STUDIES: DELEUZE ON FILM: FROM AESTHETICS TO POLITICS

The course will focus primarily on Deleuze's two-volume work on film, *Cinema I: The Movement-Image* and *Cinema II: The Time-Image* as well as on Deleuze's cinematic corpus. We will also explore related texts by Deleuze on cinema, literature, and art, as well as others written by his interlocutors and critics. Among the questions to be considered will be the different articulations of the problem of the aesthetic (and social) whole, both in Deleuze's accounts of pre- and postwar film and in his other writings on aesthetics; the relationship of history to the inactual in *Cinema I* and *II* (and elsewhere in Deleuze); the points of contact and divergence between Deleuze's work on cinema and that of other thinkers, such as Foucault and Rancière; and the various ways in which Deleuze's writings on cinema and art pose the problem of thinking an aesthetic politics.

T
3:00-5:50

FRENCH
470-0-20

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TOPICS IN LITERARY THEORY: POSTCOLONIAL/DECOLONIAL THOUGHT IN THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD

This course introduces students to a diverse field of French-language intellectual production concerned with analyzing, contesting, and transforming colonial relations of power and knowledge. French-language authors have produced some of the most radical critiques of French and European imperial projects in the modern era while innovating and/or contributing substantially to related fields such as critical race studies, gender and sexuality studies, literary theory, discourse analysis, literature, and philosophy. Yet, their reception in the Anglophone academy has often been marked by decontextualized or selective readings. Our priority will be to foreground the specificity of the French-language decolonial tradition as a response to a particular brand of colonialism rooted in a universalizing, humanist project, as well as to the particular local manifestations and effects of this project. Ranging across four main sites of theoretical production, including revolutionary Haiti, the mid-20th-century French Caribbean/Parisian axis, and Sub-Saharan Africa, our readings will highlight the ways in which French-language thinkers from Jean-Jacques Dessalines to Achille Mbembe have forged a distinctly non-essentialist theoretical tradition by innovating within and against intellectual currents of Enlightenment universalism, existentialism, historical materialism, psychoanalysis, structuralism, and post-structuralism. At the same time, through critical analysis and secondary readings, we will evaluate the continued relevance of these thinkers' attempts to conceptualize issues of intellectual and psychic (dis)alienation, political sovereignty, cultural identity, artistic creation, and freedom for intellectual projects in the humanities and social sciences today. Main texts by Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Aimé Césaire, Jane Nardal, Paulette Nardal, Suzanne Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Édouard Glissant, V.Y. Mudimbe, and Achille Mbembe, with relevant secondary readings as needed. Taught in English, with texts available in both French and English.

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3:00-5:50

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