Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Postcolonial Studies
Course Code	47213
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	SDEA-01/A
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Critical Creative Practices
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Dott. Alessandra Turchetti, Alessandra.Turchetti@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/54919
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
Course Year/s	2nd year
CP	6
Teaching Hours	30
Lab Hours	0
Individual Study Hours	90
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	This theoretical module introduces students to the key concepts, histories, and critical frameworks of postcolonial studies, examining the cultural, political, and epistemological legacies of colonialism and their ongoing impact on contemporary societies. The course explores how colonial power structures have shaped systems of knowledge, representation, and identity, and how these are contested and reconfigured in postcolonial contexts. Key topics include the foundations of postcolonial theory, the historical trajectories of colonial and postcolonial processes, and the role of representation in constructing and challenging power relations. Particular attention is given to cultural hybridity,

	resistance practices, and the ways in which artistic and design approaches engage with postcolonial critiques. The course also addresses the intersections between postcolonial thought and globalization, highlighting the persistence of inequalities and the emergence of new cultural and political dynamics. Through lectures, readings, and discussions, students will develop an understanding of how postcolonial perspectives intersect with disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, and environmental studies, fostering a critical awareness of global cultural production and its ethical implications. By engaging with theoretical frameworks and case studies, students will acquire the tools to analyse cultural and artistic practices within postcolonial contexts, and to develop independent, critically informed perspectives on social, political, and cultural issues.
Course Topics	• Foundations of Postcolonial Theory • Colonial and Postcolonial Histories • Representation and Power in Postcolonial Contexts • Cultural Hybridity and Resistance • Globalization and Postcolonial Critiques
Keywords	Postcolonial Studies; Coloniality; Race; Visuality; Art and Migration
Recommended Prerequisites	None
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	The course combines lectures, close reading, seminar discussions and the analysis of artistic, visual, curatorial, technological and design practices. Teaching alternates between theoretical sessions and practice-based activities, encouraging students to connect critical concepts with contemporary cultural and creative practices. The course includes collective discussions, case-study analysis, workshops and, where appropriate, guest contributions from practitioners. The final part of the course adopts a situated and interdisciplinary approach to the Mediterranean as a method of research and knowledge production, including possible field-based and sound-based activities.
Mandatory Attendance	not compulsory but highly recommended
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning	Knowledge and understanding Knows ecocritical theories and their applications in visual arts and

Outcomes	design have specific knowledge of artistic and design techniques that promote environmental sustainability; Understand the processes of interaction between artistic practices and natural contexts, analysing them while considering the connections with other fields of knowledge, such as philosophy, sociology and environmental sciences. Applying knowledge and understanding Conceive and implement artistic and design projects that respond to contemporary environmental challenges, using sustainable materials and ecological techniques; Develop initiatives that involve local and global communities, promoting greater awareness and action towards environmental sustainability; Collaborate with scientists, activists and other professionals to integrate interdisciplinary knowledge into artistic and design projects. Making judgements Collect and interpret cultural and material data from the fields of art, design, technology and spatial and curatorial practices, demonstrating the ability to place events, works and production operations in the historical context and current trends; Grasp the authority and evaluate the reliability of the various available sources. reflect and express an independent judgement, including on social, ethical and political-cultural issues; Interpret specific facts and events, within subject of their field of study. Communication skills Writing scientific and technical articles and reports with clarity and effectiveness; Presenting projects and ideas verbally in a professional and convincing manner. Learning skills The strengthening of the critical and operational autonomy of students;

	The development of their ability to choose, compare and adapt to new knowledge and technologies.
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	The assessment consists of an oral examination based on the presentation and discussion of an individual final project. Students will develop a research-based project addressing one of the themes explored during the course and connecting theoretical perspectives from Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies with a contemporary artistic, visual, curatorial, technological, design or situated practice. The project may take the form of a critical essay, visual essay, artistic or design research project, curatorial proposal, counter-archive, mapping project or other practice-based outcome. The examination consists of a presentation of the project followed by an oral discussion with the lecturer, during which students are expected to critically discuss their research, methodology, theoretical framework and creative choices. Active participation in class discussions and activities will also contribute to the overall assessment.
Evaluation Criteria	The evaluation will consider: - knowledge and critical understanding of the theoretical concepts addressed in the course; - ability to apply theoretical frameworks to a specific case, practice or research question; - quality and relevance of the research; - ability to establish meaningful connections between theory and creative practice; - development of an independent and situated critical perspective; - coherence between research question, methodology and final project; - originality and quality of the proposed project; - ability to clearly articulate and critically discuss the project during the oral examination.
Required Readings	Fanon, F. (1952). *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press.

	Said, E. W. (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books. Spivak, G. C. (1988). “Can the Subaltern Speak?” In C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (eds.), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. University of Illinois Press. Bhabha, H. K. (1994). *The Location of Culture*. Routledge. hooks, b. (1992). *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. South End Press.
Supplementary Readings	The full required and supplementary reading list will be provided by the lecturer at the beginning of the course.
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities