

Module title: Postcolonial Francospheres: Memories of Colonialism in the French-Speaking World

Module code: FRE4041

Credit value: 15

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

France's former colonies are sites of postcolonial memories, explored in works of fiction by French-speaking writers from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean. These writers often refuse the label of 'Francophone' as a colonial hangover, both resisting and engaging with the concept of a 'world literature in French', as they make the former colonial language their own. In this module, students will analyse novels, short stories, manifestos, and interviews by authors from across the postcolonial French-speaking world, situating them in relation to key debates and engaging with relevant theory.

Module Aims

French-speaking writers from across the world have engaged with France's colonial past through works of fiction. This course enables students to examine how authors across postcolonial francospheres situate themselves in relation to 'La Francophonie' and the 'world literature in French' debate through examining manifestos and interviews. Students have the opportunity to analyse works of fiction that deal with the legacies of colonialism across North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean, which persist to this day.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 Understanding of history and memory of France's former colonies.

A2 Understanding of key debates in relation to 'La Francophonie'.

A3 Familiarity with a range of texts from several French-speaking postcolonial contexts.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

B1 Analyse primary texts with attention to content and style.

B2 Situate authors in relation to key debates regarding world literature in French.

B3 Engage with secondary literature and postcolonial theory.

Attributes:

C1 Ability to contextualise and relate texts to wider debates.

C2 Ability to support an argument through convincing evidence.

C3 Increased awareness of the ongoing legacies of colonialism and contemporary activism.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128

Indicative Reading List

- Bey, Maïssa, Entendez-vous dans les montagnes (Éditions de l'Aube, 2002)
- Sous le jasmin de la nuit (Éditions de l'Aube, 2002)
- Chamoiseau, Patrick, Solibo magnifique (Gallimard, 1988)
- Devi, Ananda, Ève de ses décombres (Gallimard, 2006)
- Mabanckou, Alain, Le Sanglot de l'homme noir (Librairie Artheme Fayard, 2012)
- Achille, Etienne, Charles Forsdick, and Lydie Moudileno, Postcolonial Realms of Memory: Sites and Symbols in Modern France (Oxford University Press, 2020)
- Forsdick, Charles, and David Murphy, Postcolonial Thought in the French-speaking World (Liverpool University Press, 2009)
- Hargreaves, Alec G., Charles Forsdick, and David Murphy (eds.), Transnational French Studies: Postcolonialism and Littérature-monde (Liverpool University Press, 2012)
- Le Bris, Michel, and Jean Rouaud (eds.), Pour une littérature-monde en français (Gallimard, 2007)
- (eds.) Pour une identité-monde (Gallimard, 2010)
- Martin, Patrick, and Christophe Drevet (eds.), La Langue française vue des Amériques et de la Caraïbe: Entretiens (Zellige, 2009)
- La Langue française vue de la Méditerranée: Entretiens (Zellige, 2009)
- La Langue française vue de l'Afrique et de l'océan indien: Entretiens (Zellige, 2009)
- Thomas, Dominic, and Richard David, Africa and France: Postcolonial Cultures, Migration, and Racism (Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2013)