Ph.D. Field Examination in Postcolonial Literatures

The reading list for the Postcolonial Literatures Field Examination consists of two parts: A) the following list of primary and theoretical readings required of every Ph.D. candidate writing the examination and B) a series of readings divided by theme and specialization, from which the candidate selects 10 titles from one theme category.

Part A: Students read all works on the list

I. Theory/Criticism

Aijaz Ahmad. In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures


Homi K. Bhabha. The Location of Culture


Rey Chow. Writing Diaspora: Tactics of Intervention in Contemporary Cultural Studies

Gaurav Desai and Supriya Nair. Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism

Frantz Fanon. Black Skin, White Masks

----. The Wretched of the Earth

Henry Louis Gates Jr., ed. “Race,” Writing and Difference

Paul Gilroy. The Black Atlantic

Bob Hodge and Vijay Mishra. Dark Side of the Dream: Australian Literature and the Postcolonial Mind

McClintock, Anne, Aamir Mufti, Ella Shohat, eds. Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives

John McLeod. Beginning Postcolonialism
Ngugi wa Thiong’o. *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*

Edward Said. *Culture and Imperialism*

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. *The Postcolonial Critic: Interviews, Strategies, Dialogues*


**Recommended reference works**

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. *Key Concepts in Post-Colonial Studies*

John Thieme. *Post-Colonial Studies: The Essential Glossary*

**II. Africa**

Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*

Ama Ata Aidoo. *Our Sister Killjoy*

J.M. Coetzee. *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Tsitsi Dangarembga. *Nervous Conditions*

Nawal El Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*

Buchi Emecheta. *The Joys of Motherhood*

Nuruddin Farah. *Maps*

Nadine Gordimer. *July’s People*


Ngugi wa Thiong’o. *Petals of Blood*

Wole Soyinka. *The Road*

M.G. Vassanji. *The Gunny Sack*

Yvonne Vera, ed. *Opening Spaces: An Anthology of Contemporary African Women’s Writing*
III. India and Pakistan

Mulk Raj Anand. Untouchable
Kamala Das. The Old Playhouse and Other Poems
Anita Desai. Clear Light of Day
Zulfikar Ghose. Selected Poems
A.K. Mehrotra, ed. The Oxford India Anthology of Twelve Modern Indian Poets
Raja Rao. The Serpent and the Rope
Salman Rushdie. Midnight’s Children
Shyam Selvadurai. Cinnamon Gardens
Bapsi Sidhwa. Cracking India
Sara Suleri. Meatless Days
Rabindranath Tagore. Collected Poems and Plays

IV. Caribbean

Erna Brodber. Myal
Edward Kamau Brathwaite. The Arrivants
Michelle Cliff. No Telephone to Heaven
Wilson Harris. Palace of the Peacock
Jamaica Kincaid. Annie John
George Lamming. In the Castle of My Skin
Earl Lovelace. The Dragon Can’t Dance
V.S. Naipaul. The Mimic Men
V.S. Reid. New Day
Jean Rhys. Wide Sargasso Sea
Sam Selvon. Moses Ascending
Derek Walcott. Collected Poems 1948-1984

V. Australia and New Zealand

Barbara Baynton. Bush Studies
Peter Carey. True History of the Kelly Gang
Janet Frame. The Carpathians
Miles Franklin. My Brilliant Career
Patricia Grace. Potiki
Harry Heseltine, ed. Penguin Book of Australian Verse
Keri Hulme. The Bone People
Colin Johnson/Mudrooroo. Master of the Ghost Dreaming
David Malouf. Remembering Babylon
Katherine Mansfield. Bliss and Other Stories
Sally Morgan. My Place
Randolph Stow. The Visitants
Patrick White. Voss
Part B: Students choose TEN titles from ONE thematic category

I. Imperialist discourses and literatures

Aphra Behn. Oroonoko

Christopher Columbus. The Journal of Christopher Columbus (try Cecil Jane translation)

Joseph Conrad. Heart of Darkness

Daniel Defoe. Robinson Crusoe

E.M. Forster. A Passage to India

H. Rider Haggard. King Solomon’s Mines

Rudyard Kipling. Kim

Bartolomé de las Casas. A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies

George Orwell. Burmese Days

James De Mille. A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder

William Shakespeare. The Tempest

Jonathan Swift. “A Modest Proposal”

II. Gender, sexuality and colonialism

Eavan Boland. Outside History: Selected Poems, 1980-1990

Dionne Brand. In Another Place, Not Here

Erna Brodber. Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home

Lorna Goodison. Selected Poems

Kate Grenville. Joan Makes History

Alan Duff. Once Were Warriors

Bessie Head. A Question of Power

Jamaica Kincaid. The Autobiography of My Mother
Anne-Marie MacDonald. Fall on Your Knees

Shani Mootoo. Cereus Blooms at Night

Patricia Powell. The Pagoda

Arundathi Roy. The God of Small Things

Shyam Selvadurai. Funny Boy

Sistren. Lionheart Gal

III. Aboriginal literatures (Australian Aboriginal, Maori, North American Native)

Jeannette Armstrong. Whispering in Shadows

Maria Campbell. Halfbreed

Jack Davis, ed. Paperbark: A Collection of Black Australian Writings

Jennifer Sabbioni, Kay Schaffer, and Sidonie Smith, eds. Indigenous Australian Voices: A Reader.

Patricia Grace. The Dream Sleepers and Other Stories

Tomson Highway. Kiss of the Fur Queen

Witi Ihimaera. The Matriarch

Thomas King. One Good Story, That One

Ruby Langford. Don't Take Your Love to Town

Daniel David Moses and Terry Goldie, eds. An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English, 2nd ed.

Doris Pilkington. Rabbit Proof Fence

Leslie Marmon Silko. Storyteller

Hone Tuwhare. No Ordinary Sun

Albert Wendt. Leaves of the Banyan Tree
IV. Diaspora, transnationality, multiculturalism

Lillian Allen. *Women Do This Everyday*

Dionne Brand. *A Map to the Door of No Return*

---. *Land to Light On*

Brian Castro. *Birds of Passage*


George Elliott Clarke. *Beatrice Chancy*

Yasmine Gooneratne. *A Change of Skies*

Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Paule Marshall. *Brown Girl, Brownstones*

Rohinton Mistry. *Tales from Firozsha Baag*

Bharati Mukherjee. *Jasmine*

M. NourbeSe Philip. *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*

Michael Ondaatje. *Running in the Family*

Salman Rushdie. *The Satanic Verses*

Sam Selvon. *Lonely Londoners*

Zadie Smith. *White Teeth*