

Syllabus

Title of the Course:	Patriarchy, Orientalism, Modernisation	Course Breakdown:	21 teaching hours online, 159 hours independent study
Name of the Instructor:	Dr. Bülent Somay	Weekly class time:	Thursday 4:15-5:45 pm
Language:	English		
Hosted by:	Potsdam University	Certificate issued by:	Potsdam University (3 & 7 ECTS)
min. number of participants:	5	max. number of participants:	25

Description of the course

The course intends to combine and co-relate two seemingly different venues of research and study, Gender Studies, and Post/De-Colonial Studies, by indicating how different forms of patriarchy emerging in ancient civilisations leads to, or at least contributes to, the emergence of different social/cultural structures. It seeks to show how these structures eventually end up in a specific form of encounter between Western (that is, rooted in Greco-Roman) civilisation and Oriental (that is, rooted in ancient Asian and African) civilisations. This specific encounter leads to a world-system based on hierarchy and domination, a system of Western hegemony that seeks to re-structure the Asian and African civilisations in its own image, and calls it 'Modernisation', which is but a euphemism for the advent and ascent of Western capitalism in the East and the so-called 'Global South'.

The course will advance with a greater emphasis on mythological and literary narratives, rather than anthropological/sociological/historical texts, since its primary focus will be on depicting the cultural atmosphere created around the so-called 'Orient'. The main question that will be put forward is how it is constructed in the Western, as well as in the Eastern, mind, as a series of images, symbols, and narratives, which forms an edifice of the 'Orient' which will later be used to justify, willingly or not, the advance of Western/capitalist domination in the coming world-system.

Learning Aims

- The students will be guided to develop a clear concept of transdisciplinarity.
- They will be expected to be able to apply the basic concepts of ‘Colonialism’, ‘Orientalism’, ‘Patriarchy’ and ‘Modernisation’ to Cultural Studies and Social and Human Sciences as well as the current international political situation.
- They will also be expected to recognise the major encounters between Postcolonial Studies and other transdisciplinary world-outlooks, such as Psychoanalysis, Marxism and Feminism.
- Softskills: Read and critically evaluate texts

Course requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- **3 ECTS:**
 - 25h of presence in class (not graded)
 - 50h reading and two annotations per week
- **7 ECTS:**
 - 25h of presence in class (not graded),
 - 50h reading and two annotations per week,
 - Paper of 4000-5000 words (15-20 pages, double-spaced).

For **7 ECTS**, the student will be expected to write a final paper of 4000-5000 words, on a topic to be determined together with the instructor.

The grading will depend on not only the paper itself, but also how the topic, the bibliography and possible avenues of discussion have been decided in this session.

Syllabus / Reading List

Week 1: Introduction

Psychoanalysis, Literature, Gender Studies, History. How do these four fields of study meet, interact, and co-relate? Are Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Marxism all applicable to the 'Orient'?

Reading material:

- Bülent Somay. 'L'Orient n'existe pas' in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father*

Week 2: Patriarchy

The Rule of the Father. When does the father become 'The Father'? Is it a living tangible person, or is it just a name (Le nom/n du père)?

Reading material:

- Bülent Somay. 'The Function of the Father in the East and the West' in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father*

Week 3: Patriarchy II

The East and the West. Two different Fathers, or the body (physical existence) and the name (symbolic existence) of the same entity? Is Oedipus a universal figure?

Reading material:

- Thomas Beckford. *Vathe*

Week 4: Why is the West always Masculine, while the Orient is Feminine in most Western/Orientalist narratives?

Reading material:

- Edward Said 'Knowing the Oriental' in *Orientalism* (31-48)
- David-Henry Hwang. *M. Butterfly*. (Film: *M. Butterfly*, Cronenberg)

Week 5: Colonisation and Capitalism

Colonialism—Primitive Accumulation, Plundering Resources, and the Hierarchy of Races

Reading material:

- Robert Young 'Colonialism', in *Postcolonialism* (15-24)

Week 6: How 'Modern' is European Supremacy?

Domination, Violence and the 'White Master'. The journey into the 'Dark Continent' (or the 'Yellow Heartland').

Reading material:

- Joseph Conrad. *The Heart of Darkness*. (Film: *Apocalypse Now*, Coppola)

Week 7: Who is the Master ‘Master’? White Woman or Brown Man?

The Problem of Intersectionality. Should all Heterophobic Ideologies be categorised under ‘Racism’? Should all Misogynic Ideologies be categorised under ‘Sexism’?

Reading material:

- Robert Young ‘Sex and Inequality’ in *Colonial Desire* (85-110)
- E. M. Forster. *A Passage to India*. (Film: *A Passage to India*, Lean)

Week 8: Interlude

What have we done so far?

Week 9: Is East East and West West?

Orientalism—Mimicry, Cultural Transvestitism, Hybridisation and Liminality

Reading material:

- Bülent Somay. ‘Is East East and West West?’ in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father* (17-39)
- Homi Bhabha. ‘Of Mimicry and Man’ in *Location of Culture*

Week 10: Can the Orient ‘Modernise’? Is ‘Modernisation’ any different from the (partly voluntary) importation of capitalism by the Orient or the (mostly coerced) exportation of capital by the West?

Reading material:

- Robert Young ‘Disorienting Orientalism’ in *White Mythologies* (158-180)

Week 11: Coerced Modernisation

A path to the liberation of Women? The Case of Sati/*Suttee* in India.

Reading material:

- Gayatri Spivak. ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’ in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*
- Jules Verne. *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Week 12: After Colonialism

Can the Orient and the Occident (or Global North and the Global South) coexist peacefully, as lovers, friends or ‘frenemies’?

Reading material:

- Hanif Kureishi. *My Beautiful Laundrette*. (Film: *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Frears)
- Robert Young ‘Postcolonialism’, in *Postcolonialism* (57-69)

Week 13: The End of Modernisation and Developmentalism

The Three-Body (or Three-Worlds) Problem

Reading material:

- Immanuel Wallerstein 'The End of What Modernity?' in *After Liberalism* (126-144)

Week 14: Wrap-up

Is this a good place to conclude?

Reading Material

- ✓ Edward Said. 'Knowing the Oriental' in *Orientalism*
- ✓ Bülent Somay. 'L'Orient n'existe pas' in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father*
- ✓ Bülent Somay. 'Is East East and West West?' in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father*
- ✓ Bülent Somay. 'The Function of the Father in the East and the West' in *The Psychopolitics of the Oriental Father*
- ✓ Robert Young. 'Colonialism', 'Imperialism' and 'Postcolonialism' in *Postcolonialism*
- ✓ Robert Young. 'Sex and Inequality' in *Colonial Desire*
- ✓ Robert Young 'Disorienting Orientalism' in *White Mythologies*
- ✓ Immanuel Wallerstein. 'The End of What Modernity?' in *After Liberalism*
- ✓ Homi Bhabha. 'Of Mimicry and Man' in *Location of Culture*
- ✓ Gayatri Spivak. 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*
- ✓ Sigmund Freud. 'The Return of Totemism in Childhood' in *Totem and Taboo*
- ✓ Chandra Mohanty. 'Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses', in *Feminist Review*, No. 30 (Autumn, 1988), pp. 61-88.

Literature & Film

- ✓ Joseph Conrad. *The Heart of Darkness*. (Film: *Apocalypse Now*, Coppola)
- ✓ E. M. Forster. *A Passage to India*. (Film: *A Passage to India*, Lean)
- ✓ David-Henry Hwang. *M. Butterfly*. (Film: *M. Butterfly*, Cronenberg)
- ✓ Jules Verne. *Around the World in 80 Days*.
- ✓ Hanif Kureishi. *My Beautiful Laundrette*. (Film: *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Frears)
- ✓ Thomas Beckford. *Vathek*