Course description:
This course examines the work of a variety of artists within the context of the histories of colonialism, imperialism, and the construction of race, and in relation to the ideas of several key contemporary postcolonial theorists. Focusing on the 18th and 19th centuries in Britain, France, and North America, objects of analysis will consist of a range of traditional genres and canonical images, but also extend beyond the realm of “high art” to include photography, postcards, advertising, and exhibitions. Through lectures, readings, and assignments, we will explore the complex role that visual culture plays in constructing identity and supporting (and potentially challenging) imperial power.

Requirements:
Students are expected to attend every class, to have completed all required reading before class, and to participate actively and respectfully in discussions. The course materials for this class include a textbook (Kymberly Pinder, Race-ing Art History: Critical Readings in Race and Art History. London and New York: Routledge, 2002) and a coursepack. Both are available at the McGill University Bookstore and on reserve at the Redpath Library. Additionally, several readings are only available online and can be accessed on the class WebCT site, JSTOR, or through the library catalogue.

Evaluation:
1. Short assignments (40%)
These short assignments are designed to encourage engagement with the readings. The length of each assignment is 2-3 pages. Each assignment is worth 10%. More information about the assignments will be available in class.
   • Visual analysis: Students will write an analysis of a work of their choice. Related readings: Said, Fanon, Pratt. Due Sept. 29
   • Position paper: Students will construct an argument in response to a contemporary museum controversy or issue. Related readings: Hinsley, Smith, Cannizzo, and/or Clifford. Due Oct. 20
   • Portrait commission: Students will “commission” a portrait to demonstrate an understanding of how identity is constructed in this particular genre. Related readings: Bhabha, Tobin, Dyer, and/or Rosenthal. Due Nov. 10
   • Pop culture analysis: Students will perform an analysis of an element of pop culture of their choice as it relates to the themes of the class. Related readings: McClintock, Driver and Gilbert, and/or Ray. Due Nov. 19
2. Term paper (30%)
Students will write an 8-10 page paper that relates to the themes of the class. The paper will require students to do outside research on a topic of their choice. Further information about the paper will be available in class.
DUE Dec. 1

3. Final exam (25%)
Further details will be available in class before the exam. The exam will take place during the examination period. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they know the date, time, and location of the exam, and to bring their McGill ID to the exam. In the case of exam conflicts, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the Student Affairs Office (Dawson Hall) so that special arrangements can be made.

4. Participation (5%)
Includes class attendance and active participation in class discussion.

Weekly schedule

Week 1: Sept. 1-3
Defining postcolonialism
Required readings:

Week 2: Sept. 8-10
The visual construction of race
Required readings:

Week 3: Sept. 15-17
Orientalism: romance meets realism
Required readings:


**Week 4: Sept. 22-24**

**Primitivism: tourism in the “contact zone”**

Required readings:


**Week 5: Sept. 29-Oct. 1**

**Creating the “Imaginary Indian”**

Required readings:


***Assignment #1 due Sept. 29***

**Week 6: Oct. 6-8**

**The contact zone in the metropolis: universal expositions and world’s fairs**

Required readings:

**Week 7: Oct. 13-15**

**Collecting, curating, exhibiting: controversy in the contemporary museum**


**Week 8: Oct. 20-22**

**Modernism and the legacies of primitivism**

Required readings:


***Assignment #2 due Oct. 20***

**Week 9: Oct. 27-29**

**Hybridity: portraiture and the construction of identity**

Required readings:


**Week 10: Nov. 3-5**

**Inventing whiteness**

Required readings:


**Week 11: Nov. 10-12**

**The empire at home**

Required readings:

***Assignment #3 due Nov. 10

Week 12: Nov. 17-19
Landscape and the “dreamwork” of imperialism
Required readings:

***Assignment #4 due Nov. 19

Week 13: Nov. 24-26
Contemporary responses
Required readings:

Week 14: Dec. 1
Review
***Term paper due Dec. 1

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Please note:

1. Please allow a 24-hour response time for e-mail inquiries.

2. In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit any written work in English or in French.
3. Students are responsible for all material covered in class whether they are in attendance or not. If you miss class, you must get notes from another student, not from the instructor or teaching assistant.

4. Do not make travel arrangements during the final exam period. During the semester, more than one test, quiz or assignment scheduled on the same day does not constitute a conflict. Plan your schedule in advance.

5. Make-up exams and extensions will only be given in cases of serious illness. Appropriate written documentation (i.e. a medical note) is required for all missed assignments and exams. The medical note or other documentation must be valid for the time period in question. A student who is unable to attend an examination or submit an assignment due to illness must inform the professor in advance of the examination or due date, or as soon as possible thereafter. Notification of absence due to illness is required within 48 hours of the examination or due date, except under extraordinary circumstances.

6. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Final exam conflicts should be reported to the Faculty of Arts Student Affairs Office. Student obligations regarding exams are outlined at the following site: http://www.mcgill.ca/student-records/exam/

7. All assignments should be given directly to the professor at the beginning of class or placed in the lock-box outside the departmental office where they will be date-stamped at the close of each business day (4pm). A hard copy of the assignment must be provided to the professor on the due date. E-mail assignments will not be accepted.

8. Assignments submitted late will suffer a penalty of 5% per day including weekends.

9. Students who have a challenge that may affect their participation and/or performance in the course should register with the appropriate university office so that the professor is officially apprised of the situation. Failure to do will be construed as the student accepting full and sole responsibility for all the ramifications resulting from said challenge. For information concerning students with disabilities, and personal or medical crises, see http://www.mcgill.ca/studentservices/.

10. McGill values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (See www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

11. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.