Orders of Inequality: Race, Class, Gender, MA (4 credits)

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Course Outline
The course proposes wide-ranging readings on historical and contemporary orders of (racial, class, gender, sexual and cultural) inequality across different domains of colonial and postcolonial political and personal life. It privileges a humanities (as opposed to a positivistic/scientistic) perspective with a view to offering new intelligibilities by destabilising dominant knowledges and experiences related to power, truth, subjectivity, identity, freedom, ethics and so on. We will be reading texts that are aimed at disassembling hegemonic understandings of the present, injecting anxiety and uncertainty into hegemonic forms of engagement and expertise, and at opening them up to alternative modes of thinking and making the world.

The course draws on classical authors such as, Fanon, Sartre, Said and Foucault and on contemporary scholars in IR, sociology, gender studies and other fields. It aims at familiarising students with:
- experiences of and struggles against racism and colonialism
- Orientalism
- the practices and effects of settler colonialism
- the politics of denial through recognition
- the problematics of denying or granting voice to the subaltern
- the implication of global circuits of capitalist power in the production of local inequalities
- the despotism in liberal political rationalities of government
- various aspects of neo-colonial global governance – from biopolitical differentiations of life to gradations of ontological insecurity in the contemporary world
- the production of human waste in globalised capitalism & its symbolic and material effects
- the intersectional violence experienced and resisted by Romani
- the figure of the perverse homosexual in IR theory
- neoliberalism and gender violence
- coloniality as epistemological violence
- postcolonial critiques of IR theory.

Aims
The course aims at enabling participants to:
- acquire in-depth knowledge of central themes, concerns, concepts, epistemologies, methodologies in poststructuralist and philosophically realist approaches to colonial and contemporary postcolonial life and world politics
- critically interrogate the differences, affinities, tensions, complementarities of their themes, concerns and concepts
- critically assess their validity and effects
- be able to perceive and analyse the often minute and imperceptible workings of power in all sorts of domains and practices that at first sight may seem to have little to do with relations of inequality
- be able to analyse and critique diverse political rationalities of governance

Learning Activities/Teaching Methods
The course is seminar-based but will include regular short lectures on relevant concepts and topics. The sessions involve student participation in the form of short presentations and seminar-style discussions and case studies based on the course literature.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course the students will:

- be familiar with major themes, concerns, concepts, epistemologies, methodologies in diverse critical approaches aimed at analysing and unsettling states of inequality;
- have enlarged their conceptual and methodological repertoire for analysing relations of power and relations of governance;
- have acquired the intellectual means to detect relations of inequality in the most unsuspecting places and spaces;
- have learned to situate their own research in relation to the discussed themes, concerns, concepts and so on;

**Method of Assessment**

Each student will be assessed through a combination of seminar contributions, oral presentations, and written work.

The final grade is made up of the following components:

1. Seminar attendance and participation: 15%
2. Oral presentation of assigned texts: 20%
3. Position paper (based on your in-class presentation): 30% (1,500 words)
4. Concept paper: 35% (2000 words)

**Schedule of Seminars & Readings**

1. **Seminar 1: Introduction**
   The first seminar will act as a brief introductory seminar where the nature of the course will be discussed, together with the goals and expectations of both the students and the course convenor. Moreover, student presentations will be assigned.

2. **Seminar 2: no class**
   - Preparatory Reading

3. **Experiencing + Responding to Racial Subordination – Frantz Fanon’s Black Skin, White Masks And The Wretched of The Earth:**

Further Readings:

4. **Re-Reading Fanon Through Hegel + Sartre: Rebellious Subjects Through Recognition + Disidentification**
   - Bulhan, Hussein Abdilahi, 1985: *Frantz Fanon and the Psychology of Oppression*, chapter 6: “Master & Slave Paradigms” – excluding the section on “Mannoni’s Master and Slave”

Further Readings:

5. Said - Orientalism:

Additional Readings:

6. Mimicry and Governmentality – Resisting + Governing The Racialized Other

Further Readings:

7. Settler Colonialism:

Additional Readings:
- Wolfe, Patrick, 2016: Traces of History: Elementary Structures of Race
8. Against a Liberal Politics Of Recognition In Dealing With The Inheritance of Settler Colonialism:

9. Movie 1

10. Spivak - Can The Subaltern Speak?

11. So What Spivak - Interrogating Her Famous Question:
   - Dijkema, Claske. 2019. “‘If You Can’t Hear Me, I Will Show You’: Insurgent Claims to Public Space in a Marginalized Social Housing Neighborhood in France”. Space and Culture 22 (3): 250-262.

   Additional Readings:

12. The Everyday, Post/Colonialism + Resistance:

13. The Despotism in Liberal Reason:

   Additional readings:
14. Global Capitalism and Race:

Further Readings:

15. The Romani Subaltern – Class, Race, Space, Voice:

16. Biopolitical Hierarchies:

Further Readings:

17. Movie 2

18. Gradations of Ontological Security in The Global Neoliberal Order:
[Or: Privilege Theory + Its Critics]


Additional readings:

19. The Literal and Figurative Production of Human Waste in Globalised Capitalism & Its Symbolic and Material Effects:

Additional readings:

20. The Perverse Homosexual As A Figure of IR + Gender Violence in India:
- Cynthia Weber, 2016: Queer International Relations: Sovereignty, Sexuality and the Will to Knowledge, Oxford, chapter 3

Additional Readings:
- Sandeep Bakshi, Suhraiya Jivraj and Silvia Posocco (eds), 2016: Decolonizing Sexualities: Transnational Perspectives, Critical Interventions

21. Coloniality And Epistemological Violence:

Additional readings:
- Cheah, Pheng, 2006: "The Limits of Thinking in Decolonial Strategies”

22. Postcolonial Critiques Of IR Theory:

Further readings:
- Darby, Philip, (ed.) 2016 From International Relations to Relations International: Postcolonial Essays, Routledge