The History and Theory of Travel

DESCRIPTION:
This course aims at providing a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues related to travel as movement in space and time as well as encounter with different cultures and ethnicities. Much emphasis is placed on the affiliations of modern theories of travel with postcolonial discourse and ethnography. The course also explores analytical strategies and critical concepts relevant to the interpretation of travel writing. Recourse is made to major theorists such as Edward Said, Mary Louise Pratt, Johan Fabian, Clifford James among others.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: A combination of seminar, lectures, student’s presentations, films and documentaries

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Discuss critical knowledge of American representations
• Better understand Moroccan American cultural relations;
• Be familiar with postcolonial concepts and theories.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT:
To validate this course, students should attain a minimum total score of 50/100. Assessment involves the following activities;

a- Written Reports 20% (typed and double spaced)
b- Class Participation 20%
c- A 20 minute presentation 20%
d- A 2000 word essay 40%

Students are required to submit regular reports of materials scheduled for home reading. Both the reports and class participation will constitute 40% of the general mark. Beside reports, each student will deliver a 20 minute oral presentation based on one or more of the texts below. The presentation accounts for 20% of the overall score. Finally, each student is required to submit a 2000 word essay by the end of the term. The essay should be original and reflect the student’s own individual work. The essay receives 40% of the total mark. Students are supposed to start work on their essays at an early stage and should consult the lecturer for support and orientation.

CONTENT:

1- Introduction and Methodology


2- Reflections on Travel
Extracts from Marco Polo, The Travels 1271
Extracts from Ibn Battuta, Travels in Asia and Africa 1325-1345

3- Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory
extracts from Ania Loomba, Colonialism and Postcolonialism; and John Mcleod Beginning Postcolonialism

4- Transculturation and The Contact Zone
Mary Louise Pratt, "Introduction: Criticism in the contact zone" in Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation (London: Routledge, 1992)

5- Edward Said and the Discourse of Orientalism
Extracts from Orientalism
critiques of Orientalism (selected extracts to be provided)

6- The Postcolonial Pedagogy (Critique and Methodology)
Close textual readings of postcolonial texts and case studies

Submission of Term Paper

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
Books

Articles:


Tiffin, Helen. "Post-Colonial Literatures and Counter-Discourse." 17-34.
