

General remarks

This was supposed to be an interdisciplinary course, involving geography, history, colonial history, politics, economics and – as an illustration – literature and film.

I expected to meet you on that territory.

Instead, what a disappointment!..

Most of you chose to ignore the historical facts (and by this I did not mean exact years but at least centuries...), geography and economics of the colonial world. 80%-90% of the papers just ignored such "details."

I also expected you to assimilate at least some of the theoretical terminology of postcolonial studies (terms like nationalism, hybridity, stereotyping, race, dual oppression...), and connect them to the thinker who invented them. Again, all I found was a vague and blurry mixing up of half-digested terms.

But many of you are no better when it comes to our usual object of study: literature. Indian writers for many of you also include André Brink (South African) or Chinua Achebe (Nigerian). Postcolonial and colonial seem to mean the same thing for you.

Even the treatment of the last subject (subject 7) – one which was to connect theory with your specific fiction readings – proved to be disappointing. The demand was: "Which aspects of the colonial / postcolonial era were best illuminated in the novels you read...?" It was NOT narrate the storyline again! Simply said, I wanted to see which aspects of (post)colonial life struck you from these novels. And what aspects of your postcolonial theory you have discovered live in those texts.

I may say that only one paper fulfilled these demands: it was Ana Podina's paper, very personal, fresh, full of intelligent remarks and – surprise – written in an amazingly good English! Congratulations, Ana! Way to go!

Second comes Amalia Almassy's discussion on the novels, aiming to discuss issues (problematici) rather than to narrate the stories.

The best paper treatment of subjects 1 to 6 was that written by Silvia Fanea (29,4 points), with solid knowledge and consistently good answers. Such a pity that Silvia skipped through subject 7 with just a summary of a novel...

Carla Crisan has some well treated subjects... but not enough for a better grade...

My biggest disappointment was Ileana Giurgi, who was simply not even trying it... And Mirona, limp and lifeless this time... And Maria Bledea off the mark all the time...

Grebles, Tarta, you have learned the art of frothing at the mouth an enormous amount of words that make absolutely no sense. Nice try, however! Taraczközi mixes up things grand style (in case you did not know, Columbus started from America to explore Africa!)

Some good stuff from Mihaela Nistor, yet, upon addition...

So, I expect you for the re-exam. That should include some of the people who are now way below their potential (Ileana, Maria...), who are expected to raise the flag again in a "marire de nota".

Best,

Dr A. O. Ioiu