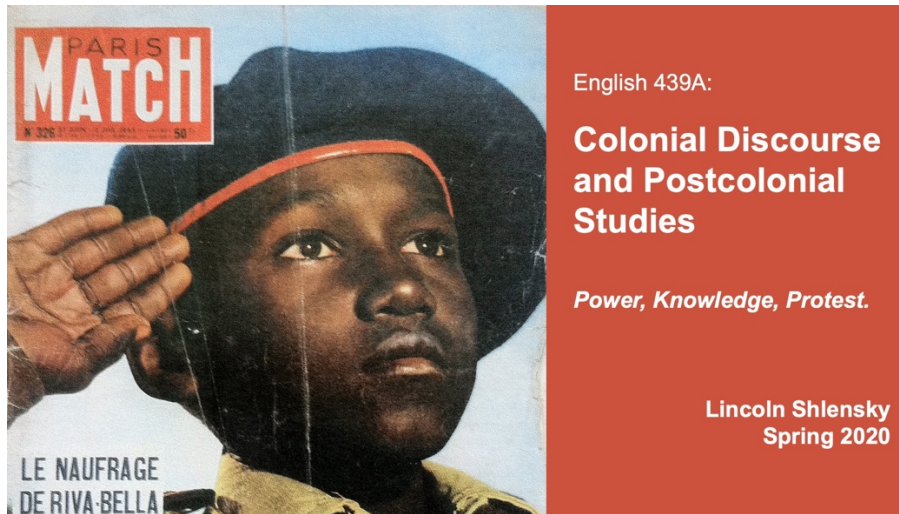


ENGL 439A: Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Studies

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Course description:

This course will seek to understand how colonial subjects historically have been inequitably “spoken for” and often continue to go unheard in the postcolonial present. We will consider how to resist framing postcolonial analysis in a us-versus-them sense by listening to the ways in which postcolonial authors and filmmakers speak of their situations in terms of complex relationships with settler societies. When these writers, artists and filmmakers “speak back” to imperial and colonial domination, we will ask how to understand the differing perspectives they assert. Are they rightfully calling the West to account for an array of universal ideals and promises that go unfulfilled? How are compensation and reconciliation to be imagined? Can literature, film and other art forms play an important role in allowing new voices to be heard?

Proposed assignments:

Short responses to readings	5%
Video or other group project:	20%
Research proposal	10%
Research paper	35%
Exam (3 hours):	30%

Proposed reading list:

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*.

Gandhi, Leela. *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction*.

Kincaid, Jamaica. *A Small Place*.

Orange, Tommy. *There There*.

Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children*.

Selected essays and shorter readings.