Postcolonial Theory

Colonialism and the production of knowledge

'The "Enlightenment" which discovered the liberties, also invented the disciplines.' (David Garland, *Punishment and Modern Society*, 1990)

The power-knowledge nexus has become a truism. Following Edward Said's *Orientalism* (1978), the investigation into the construction of disciplinary forms of knowledge has become a major preoccupation of postcolonial scholarship. The unexamined Eurocentrism of western forms of knowledge, their connections with colonial rule, their ideological investments in racial, sexual, and gendered forms of domination, and their institutional structures have been subjected to sustained postcolonial critique. The focus of this course will be on three such formations: English; history; anthropology. The implications of this critique for both postcolonialism and the disciplines will be studied.