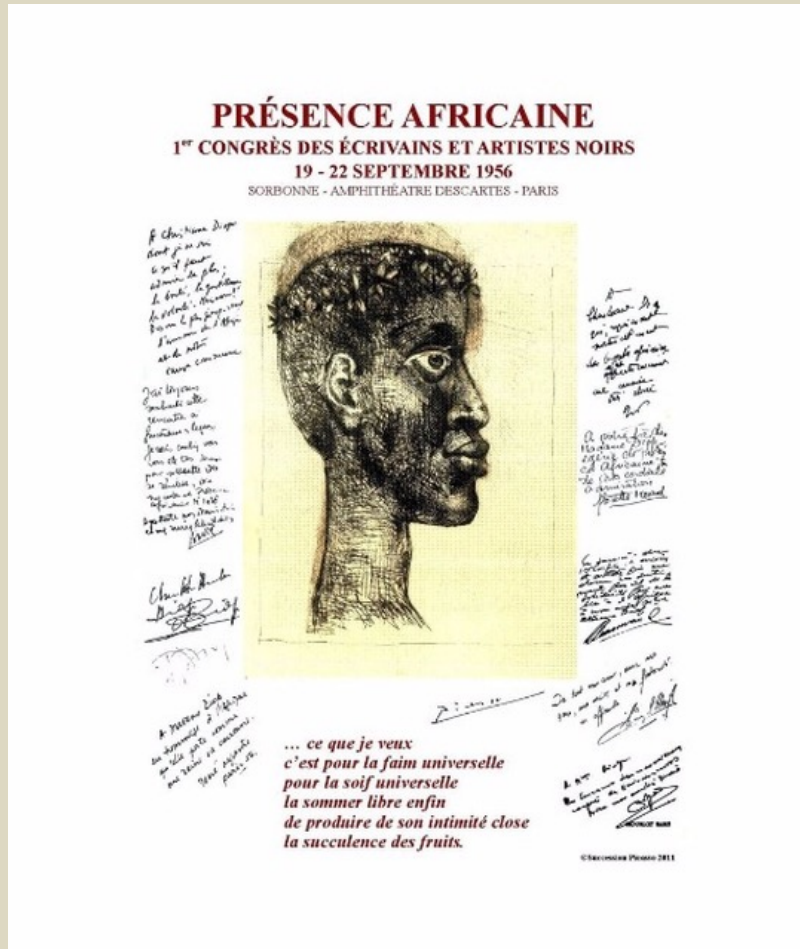


Postcolonial Theory: The Francophone Context

COLT 602, 22088R, Fall 2017, Thursdays, 5:00-7:50 pm

Professor Lydie E. Moudileno



This seminar will survey the Francophone postcolonial context to demonstrate that the multi-continental territory that was the French empire, now called the “French-speaking world,” has generated not only emblematic events (such as the Haitian Revolution or the Algerian War), but also a sophisticated critical discourse meant to uncover their particularities and historical significance.

From Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia, poets, philosophers, literary critics, historians, and sociologists, have written about and engaged in debates about the particular legacies of colonization in the Francophone context. This seminar will provide the opportunity to investigate the most important voices in this tradition, and to better understand the extent to which they have contributed to enriching—and often inspired—both the Francophone intellectual archive and postcolonial theory in general. We will examine, diachronically, a broad range of authors from diverse backgrounds, across the long twentieth century.

The texts we will read come from across the Francophone world: The Caribbean (Jean-Pierre Mars, Suzanne Césaire, Aimé Césaire, Frantz Fanon, Edouard Glissant); the Maghreb (Albert Memmi, Assia Djebar), sub-Saharan Africa (Léopold Sédar Senghor, Achille Mbembe); Europe (Jean-Paul Sartre, Jacques Derrida, Françoise Vergès, David Murphy, Charles Forsdick); and North America (Dominic Thomas, Christopher Miller, Adlai Murdoch).

The ultimate goal of this course is simultaneously to highlight the unique critical gestures of this corpus, all while bringing it back into communication with the larger postcolonial debates that define the field as a whole.