How have identities, histories, and hierarchies of power been impacted by colonialism?

How is learning about colonialism significant for understanding contemporary politics?

• What can ‘postcolonial’ mean? When does it begin for certain people and spaces?
  • Is ‘postcolonial’ a relevant conceptual tool in a place like Hawai‘i?

In the most general sense, Postcolonialism is a way of understanding history and how our histories affect us today. This course takes seriously the ways colonialism has formed and continues to inform global politics. The ‘postcolonial’ is a malleable term, and Postcolonialism is not a unified field of theoretical questioning and exploration. For instance, for some ‘postcolonial’ refers to the period from the 1940s and 1950s onwards, after many people and places in the world sought and achieved physical independence from colonizing empires; for others, it refers to anytime after colonization (1492). Accordingly, we will be looking at multiple adaptations and uses of the ‘postcolonial.’ While we will be reading from some of the core materials and thinkers in postcolonial theory, we will also be looking at political movements and philosophies that seek to unpack, dismantle and contest colonial power.

PLEASE CONTACT Akta Kaushal (akta@hawaii.edu) FOR THE FULL SYLLABUS AND MORE INFO