After World War II ended and national powers shifted, the globe – especially in the colonies of European powers – sought to establish its own independence and autonomy. Anticolonial resistance, while not a new thing, flared up all over Africa, South America, and Asia and, eventually, led to the creation of new nations. But decolonization and the creation of the postcolony was often a bloody process, as well as a culturally rich one. This course will explore the ways that emerging nations attempt to untangle their national identities from those of their colonizer, through both culture and violence, and how people deal with a legacy of violence.

In this seminar style course, we will read some of the major novels to come out of decolonization that are written in English – Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*, Ngugi wa Thiong’o *Petals of Blood*, J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, Jamaica Kincaid’s *Autobiography of My Mother*, and Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*. As we read these texts, we will also read the theoretical work of Homi Bhabha, Benedict Anderson, Frantz Fanon, and Trinh T. Minh-ha to help ground our discussions. Possible films include *District 9*, *The Last King of Scotland*, and *Things of the Aimless Wanderer*. Students will be expected to attend class, participate in discussion, keep up with the reading, and view the films. Each student will be expected to lead discussion for one text and write a 10-15 page seminar paper using the theory and texts of the class.

**Course Information**

TR 9:30-10:20

Starts: Oct. 8

Ends: Dec. 7

Dr. Tina Powell