

# The Orientalism Debates:

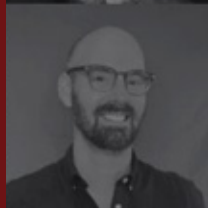
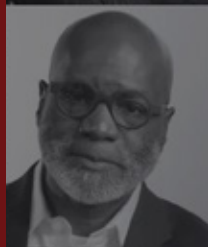
Genealogy and Critique

Certificate Course (Online)



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## Course Introduction

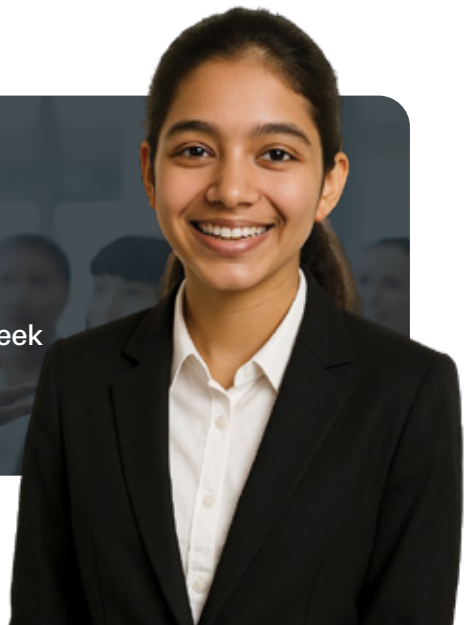
The Orientalism Debates: Genealogy and Critique is the first in a series of introductory courses designed to help students navigate key concepts in social theory. Aimed at a broad audience—including students, researchers, and the wider public—the course invites critical engagement with one of the most generative debates in the humanities and social sciences.

It offers a rigorous yet accessible conceptual overview of Orientalism, emphasizing how it has served as a critical framework for interpreting socio-political realities across diverse contexts. The course traces the concept's evolution—from classical formulations to contemporary reconfigurations—equipping participants with the analytical tools to understand Orientalism as discourse, structure, and mode of power.

The course engages key developments in the field—such as Legal Orientalism, Black Orientalism, Post-Orientalism, and the intersections of Orientalism with literature, empire, and modern knowledge. Special attention is given to its formations in South Asia, offering insights into its deep connections with colonialism and the power dynamics of postcolonial societies. Taking a multifaceted approach, the course enables critical engagement with some of the most significant developments in contemporary thought.

### Course Structure

- Duration: 4 Months
- Format: Online (Live + Recorded)
- Weekly Commitment: 2-3 Hours/Week
- Total Sessions: 32





# Course Outline

## Three Modules

### **1. Orientalism: Genealogies of a Concept**

This module offers a theory-driven introduction to the concept of Orientalism, with a focus on Edward Said's influential work. It equips students with key theoretical tools to critically examine how knowledge, culture, and power intersect in the discourse of Orientalism. Said's arguments are contextualized through his debates with figures such as Samuel P. Huntington and Bernard Lewis, highlighting the intellectual and political stakes of the concept. The module also engages with contemporary readings of Said's work, alongside films, documentaries, and media texts that extend the discussion into present-day contexts.

### **2. Orientalism Revisited: From Empire to Epistemology**

This module offers an advanced engagement with Orientalism, drawing on contemporary social theorists to reframe and reimagine the concept within global cultural and political contexts. It features the work of Wael Hallaq, Hamid Dabashi, Sherman Jackson, Sahar Aziz, Salman Sayyid, Aamir Mufti, and others. The module examines key conceptual developments, including Black Orientalism, Legal Orientalism, Orientalism and Literature, Empire, and Modern Knowledge—each offering new directions and provocations in the field.

Drawing on ongoing critical engagements, the module approaches Orientalism through multiple centres of inquiry, challenging fixed assumptions about its scope and operation. Through diverse critical perspectives, it equips students with theoretical tools to extend and complicate conventional understandings, inviting them to think with the field and pose meaningful conceptual questions.

### **3. Mapped and Known: Orientalism in South Asia**

This module offers a critical introduction to Orientalism in South Asia, drawing on foundational texts, contemporary research, and ongoing debates. Engaging the works of scholars such as Sheldon Pollock, Peter van der Veer, Irfan Ahmad, and M.S.S. Pandian, it examines the specific forms Orientalism takes in South Asian contexts and the shifting power dynamics of postcolonial societies. By foregrounding regional histories, knowledge systems, and political transformations, the module develops a situated and nuanced understanding of Orientalism, informed by recent scholarship.

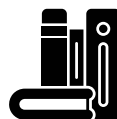
## Course Features



Expert Faculty



Curated Syllabus



Comprehensive  
Reading Materials



Termly Assessments



Discussion Forums



Certificate  
on Completion



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