



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Department of English and Comparative Literature

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Occultism, Postcoloniality, and Modernism Named one of the 17 Most Innovative Courses of the 2019/2020 Academic Year

March 04, 2020



#10: Occultism, Postcoloniality, and Modernism

Instructed by [Dr. Gauri Viswanathan](#) at Columbia University

Here in New York City, it's common to find groups of students huddled together in chic coffee shops, reading tarot cards. Walk down any street in East Village and you might be lured in to the home of a self-proclaimed fortune teller who — for just \$10— will make vague claims about your future. [Shops](#)  which sell enchantments can be found in various pockets of the city. And online, Instagram accounts that share astrology memes are followed by hundreds of thousands of social media users.

These practices find their basis in the traditions of the Occult— but the contemporary understanding of them is a far cry from the understandings held in the 1600s, when women (*and men*) were persecuted and hanged for (*allegedly*) practicing witchcraft. So, what's changed?

In **Occultism, Postcoloniality, and Modernism** celebrated **Columbia University** professor **Dr. Gauri Viswanathan** explores antiquated and modern occult devices from a historical and literary perspective.

Occultism, Postcoloniality, and Modernism

School: [Columbia University](#) 

Course: Occultism, Postcoloniality, and Modernism

Instructor: [Dr. Gauri Viswanathan](#) 

Link to post: <https://medium.com/campuswire/10-occultism-postcoloniality-and-modernism-8948191d3e86> 

Link to full article: <https://medium.com/campuswire/17-of-the-most-innovative-courses-of-the-2019-2020-academic-year-974933154e97> 

News

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