

Independent Studies/Theses: If you are interested in doing independent work with Prof. Prabhu, please contact her ahead of time with a statement of your interest, a paragraph describing your project, and why you feel she might be able to direct this work. Prof. Prabhu is available to direct theses and independent studies in postcolonial studies, postcolonial literature and theory, French colonial history and literature, more general colonial policies and literature, colonial discourse theory, film studies, third world film, African cinema, more general narrative, and cultural theory. She has worked with Wellesley students doing independent work on French-Canadian writers; Haiti; Caribbean (French and English); Frantz Fanon, Mahatma Gandhi, and theories of emancipation; Writing around independences (Francophone and anglophone); Assia Djebar; Third World cinema; and African film. Some students have used part of the readings from existing courses (see courses) as the theoretical basis for their own studies. If you are interested in discussing this possibility, please ask for more detailed information on any of these courses or themes. She is also happy to work as a co-advisor if your work best falls between two departments or two areas.

If you are proposing independent work for French credit, please submit proof of excellent writing *in French* as well as the name of a professor who can serve as a referee (unless you have taken a class with her in the last two semesters). For all independent studies, please provide a sample of your writing and the name of one professor with whom you have recently worked (class or independent work).

If the study is undertaken, you will be expected to come up with a bibliography, which you will subsequently annotate early in the semester. If you don't know how to go about this, your second session with Prof. Prabhu will usually focus on bibliography and references. Your first session will include discussion of the tasks ahead, establishing a provisional calendar, and brainstorming from a new written description of the project (elaborated on from what you first sent her via e-mail with your initial request to work with her). She will ask you to send this to her ahead of the first meeting. In the course of the semester (or year) you will be expected to maintain regular contact, write short reactions and longer papers, do extensive and thoughtful revisions (it is not uncommon at all to rework one paper 3-4 times), and creatively design your own path while closely consulting with your director. Typically, expect to spend 10-15 hours of work on this weekly, excluding any meeting times with the prof.