

**HIS 208 01: TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I:
EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES
MWF: 11-11:50am, MHRA 1215**

Professor: Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2116

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm; and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the 1820s, the British Empire encompassed 1/5 of the world's population. By the 1920s, the British Empire covered more than 14 million square miles of the world's surface. And the British Empire is only one example of the world's empires. European expansion and imperialism is a reality of our past and has significantly shaped the world in which we live.

This course provides a historical survey of European expansion and empires from the early eighteenth century to the late twentieth century. Why did expansion occur? How did expansion occur? And, what was the impact of this expansion? We will pay particular attention to the cultural, social, and political ramifications of this imperial expansion.

Learning Objectives:

1. By the completion of the course, students will be able to identify and give the significance of the major events, peoples, and debates in the history of Europe's modern imperial expansion.
 2. Students will develop the ability to construct and support an analytical argument based on primary historical sources. These skills will be developed both through writing assignments and classroom discussions.
 3. Students will be introduced to the historical origins of significant debates in today's world.
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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Throughout the semester, we will examine and analyze a variety of historical sources – from political documents to novels to music to films. The following texts are required and available for purchase at the university bookstore:

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

All other reading material is available on the course Blackboard site or will be distributed in class.

*Please note that there is no central text for this course. The course lectures are designed to provide the necessary context and background often provided by a traditional textbook.

Should you wish to consult a text in addition to the required readings, however, I have placed *The Earth and It is Peoples* on reserve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation and Attendance

To perform well in this course, you must attend all lectures, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. Attendance is mandatory. Weekly reading assignments should be completed in preparation for Friday class meetings, which will largely involve discussion (please note that one discussion will take place on Monday, November 21st). Students must come to classes labeled “Discussion” prepared to participate – in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings.

In-class Reading Quizzes

Each course labeled “Discussion” will begin with a short (10 minute) writing assignment or quiz based upon the reading due for that day. These will be graded on a scale of 10. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Papers

Students will be required to write two papers over the course of the semester. The first paper is due October 3rd. The second paper is due November 21st. Paper topics will be provided in advance of both due dates. Papers are due in class. I do not accept emailed copies of papers.

Both papers need to be double-spaced, with 12 point font, and standard margins. Please cite your sources using footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical documentation. Plagiarism is a breach of the university’s academic integrity policy. For more information on this policy, see <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>.

Note on late papers: The grades of the papers will be reduced by $\frac{1}{3}$ of a letter grade for each class-meeting late. Papers will not be accepted after one week and a 0 will be recorded.

Grading

Grades will be based on four different aspects of your performance: (1) papers (2) mid-term exam (3) participation, attendance, and in-class quizzes (4) final exam. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

Paper #1 15%

Paper #2 25%

Mid-term Exam 15%

Final Exam 25%

Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes 20%

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

WEEK ONE

Aug 22: Introduction

Aug 24: Empire at the close of the 17th Century

Aug 26: The First “Global” War

Reading: *No Reading*

PART I: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK TWO

Aug 29: Europe’s Swing to the East

Aug 31: The Industrial Revolution

Sept 2: DISCUSSION: *India*

Reading:

Linda Colley, “Another Passage to India,” *Captives*, 241-268.

WEEK THREE

Sept 5: *No Classes*

Sept 7: Science, “Race,” and Empire

Sept 9: DISCUSSION: *Eighteenth-century colonial encounters*

Reading: Richard Broome, “The Gamaraigal Confront the British,” *Aboriginal Australians: black responses to white dominance, 1788-2001*, 26-39.

James Burney, *The Maoris*, 1772-73,

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1777burney-maoris.asp>

WEEK FOUR

Sept 12: The French Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 14: The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 16: DISCUSSION: *The Napoleonic Era*

Reading: Maya Jasanoff, "Invading Egypt," *Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East 1750-1850*, 117-148.

PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Sept 19: Age of Imperial Reform

Sept 21: Indentured Labor in the British Empire

Sept 23: Mid-century conflicts

Reading: *No reading*

WEEK SIX

Sept 26: Mid-century cultural transitions

Sept 28: Britain and the Irish Question

Sept 30: DISCUSSION: *Ireland and the Empire* ***No Reading Quiz***

Reading:

Christine Kinealy, "At home with the Empire: the example of Ireland," *At Home with the Empires: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World*, eds. Catherine Hall and Sonya O. Rose (2006), 77-100.

Kevin Kenny, "The Irish in the Empire," *Ireland and the British Empire*, ed. Kevin Kenny (2004), 90-122.

Documents on 1857 and on the Morant Bay Rebellion

(recommended) Jill Bender, "Mutiny or freedom fight? The 1857 Indian Mutiny and the Irish press," *Newspapers and empire in Ireland and Britain, c. 1857-1921*, ed. Simon J. Potter (2004), 92-108.

WEEK SEVEN

Oct 3: The modern nation state ***PAPER ONE DUE***

Oct 5: New Imperialism I

Oct 7: DISCUSSION: *New Imperialism*

Reading: Start *King Leopold's Ghost*

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 10: *No Classes*

Oct 12: New Imperialism II

Oct 14: **DISCUSSION:** *New Imperialism*

Reading: Finish *King Leopold's Ghost*

PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

WEEK NINE

Oct 17: Empires at home?

Oct 19: The Great War

Oct 21: **DISCUSSION:** *World War I and the imperial perspective*

Reading: David Omissi, *Indian Voices of the Great War: Soldiers' Letters, 1914-1918* (excerpt)

WEEK TEN

Oct 24: New Countries, New Colonies

Oct 26: The rise of Totalitarianism

Oct 28: ***EXAM***

Reading: *No reading*

WEEK ELEVEN

Oct 31: The Second World War, part I

Nov 2: The Second World War, part II

Nov 4: **DISCUSSION:** *World War II*

Reading: Theodore Abel, "Six Life Histories," *Why Hitler Came to Power* (1938)

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

WEEK TWELVE

Nov 7: Reordering the Post-war World
Nov 9: Decolonization I
Nov 11: DISCUSSION: *Decolonization and Violence*

Reading: Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (excerpt)

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 14: Decolonization II
Nov 16: FILM: *Amandla!*
Nov 18: FILM: *Amandla!*

Reading: Begin Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 21: DISCUSSION: *Amandla!* *****No reading quiz, PAPER TWO DUE*****
Nov 23: No Classes
Nov 25: No Classes

Reading: Continue Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 28: Legacies of Empire I
Nov 30: Legacies of Empire II
Dec 2: DISCUSSION: *The Colonial Impact*

Reading: Finish Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK SIXTEEN

Dec 5: Conclusion

*****FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 12, 2011, 12-3pm*****
