HIS 589 Peripheries of Empire: Ireland and India
Mondays: 3:30-6:20, MHRA 1210

PROFESSOR: Dr. Jill Bender
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OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 1:00-2:00pm; Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm; and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
India is nearly fifty times the size of Ireland. And, its population is more than 1 billion people. Ireland, on the other hand, has a population of less than 5 million. Despite the obvious differences between contemporary Ireland and India, the two countries also share a history shaped by British imperial rule. As such, scholars have begun to examine the histories of Ireland and India within one analytical framework.

This course will explore the shared colonial experiences of India and Ireland from the mid-nineteenth century to the late-twentieth century. Particular themes will include: famine, nationalism, military involvement, violence, and partition. The course will not only reveal the complexity and multi-faceted nature of imperialism, but also will permit students to examine historical questions in two different regions.

Student Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in modern Ireland and India.
- Compare broad historical themes across national boundaries
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
- Interpret the historical roots of significant debates in today’s world.
- Evaluate historiographical debates within the field of imperial history.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Undergraduate Requirements

Response Papers (together, worth 40%): Students must write 3 short response papers over the course of the semester. Each of these papers should be based on the readings for one of the course themes: Famine, Nationalism, Military Involvement, Violence, and Partition. Students should draw from and cite at least 2 of the assigned readings in each paper. (See below for due dates – all papers are due at the start of class. I will not accept late or emailed papers – please
plan ahead!) Papers should be 2-3 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font, standard margins).

**Final Paper 40%:** Each student will produce an 8-10 page historiographical essay that addresses one of the debates/themes covered in the course. This paper will require reading in addition to the assigned readings. You will need to submit a proposed bibliography in advance (due November 5th). The final paper will be due on the final day of class, December 3rd. In addition, please be prepared to present a short summery of your final essay to the class on December 3rd.

**Participation 20%:** Class participation and attendance is essential. Each week you need to come to class ready to participate – in other words, you need to have completed all of the assigned readings, taken notes, and prepared questions and/or comments. Please bring a copy of the assigned readings to class. Any unexcused absences will result in a 0 for participation.

**Graduate Requirements**

**Response Papers 40% (10% each):** Graduate students must write 4 short response papers over the course of the semester. Each of these papers should be based on the readings for one of the course themes: Famine, Nationalism, Military Involvement, Violence, and Partition. (See below for due dates – all papers are due at the start of class. I will not accept late or emailed papers – please plan ahead!) Papers should be 2-3 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt font, standard margins). These papers should both summarize the argument of the various readings and place the readings within historiographical context.

**Final Paper 30%:** 15-20 page historiographical essay on one of the course themes. Please meet with me in advance to create a reading list. This paper will be due on the final day of class, December 3rd.

**Class Presentation 10%:** Each graduate student must lead class discussion once over the course of the semester.

**Participation 20%:** Class participation and attendance is essential. Each week you need to come to class prepared to participate – in other works, you need to have completed all of the assigned readings, taken notes, and prepared questions and/or comments. Please bring a copy of the assigned readings to class. Any unexcused absences will result in a 0 for participation.

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**
I have placed copies of the following books on reserve at Jackson Library. In addition, copies are available for purchase at the university bookstore. All other readings will be provided via Blackboard.

G. K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule*
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
Please note that there is no central text for this course. Should you have additional questions regarding the general histories of India and Ireland, I recommend the following books:


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**SETTING THE STAGE: INDIA AND IRELAND**

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**Aug 20: Introduction to the Course**

No reading assignment

**Aug 27: Ireland and India in the British Empire**


Graduate Students, please also read the following:

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**Sept 3: No Classes**

**Sept 10: Ireland and India – Imperial Affinities**


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FAMINE

Sept 17: The Great Famine


Sept 24: Famines in India

Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocausts, 25-59.


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NATIONALISM

Oct 1: Nationalism in Ireland and India


Oct 8: Nationalist Collaboration

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**PART FOUR: MILITARY INVOLVEMENT**

**Oct 15: No classes**

Begin Kipling, *Kim*

**Oct 22: Military Opportunities – The Irish in India**

Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (1901)


**Oct 29: Military Opportunities – Irish and Indian Mutinies  ***MILITARY PAPERS DUE***


[http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/item/20120111-576](http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/item/20120111-576)

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**THE QUESTION OF VIOLENCE**

**Nov 5: The Easter Rising and Civil War**

***BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE***

We will watch the following film in class: *Michael Collins*

Please look at the National Library of Ireland’s online exhibition on the 1916 Rising, which can be found at http://www.nli.ie/1916/1916_main.html


**Nov 12: Gandhi and Civil Disobedience**

***VIOLENCE PAPERS DUE***

M. K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule*


Sarmila Bose and Eilís Ward, “‘India’s cause is Ireland’s cause’: elite links and nationalist politics,” in *Ireland and India: Connections, Comparisons, Contrasts*, eds. Michael Holmes and Denis Holmes (Dublin: Folens, 1997), 52-73.

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**DECOLONIZATION AND PARTITION**

**Nov 19: Partition in Theory**


Nov 26: Partition in Practice

***PARTITION PAPERS DUE***

We will watch the following film in class: *Divisions of Heart*


Select Documents on Partition

Dec 3: Conclusion – Imperial Legacies

***FINAL PAPERS DUE***