

**HIS 208 01 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I:  
EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES  
MW: 9-9:50am, Ferguson 100**

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**Professor:** Dr. Jill Bender

**Office:** MHRA 2116

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 1:00-2:00pm; Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm; and by appointment

**Email:** jcbender@uncg.edu

**Teaching Assistants:** Jamie Mize, j\_mize@uncg.edu

HIS208R 01, Fridays, 9:00-9:50am, SOEB 214

HIS208R 04, Fridays, 10:00-10:50am, SOEB 219

Joseph Ross, jaross@uncg.edu

HIS208R 02, Fridays, 9:00-9:50am, SOEB 217

HIS208R 03, Fridays, 10:00-10:50am, SOEB 217

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The empires of France and Britain once encompassed nearly 1/3 of the world's population. By the 1920s, the British Empire alone covered more than 14 million square miles of the world's surface. 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 imperialism.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

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

- Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of modern Europe's imperial expansion.
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary sources representing different points of view.
- Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
- Identify 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 books are available on reserve at Jackson Library or for purchase at the university bookstore:

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

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All other reading material is available on the course Blackboard site. 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 Its Peoples* on reserve at the university library.

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Participation and Attendance**

To perform well in this course, you must attend all lectures and discussion sections, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. Attendance will be taken in both lectures and discussion sections. You may miss up to 3 lectures without penalty (assuming there are no assignments due that particular day). Please see individual teaching assistants regarding the attendance policy for discussion sections.

### **Discussion Sections**

Each Friday, students will meet with their assigned teaching assistant. Students must come to Friday classes prepared to participate – in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings. Weekly reading assignments should be completed in preparation for Friday discussions. Students should bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.

### **Reading Quizzes**

Friday discussions will begin with a short (10 minute) writing assignment or quiz based upon the reading due for that day. Quiz questions will be taken from the reading questions posted in advance on Blackboard. All quizzes will be graded on a scale of 1 to 10. There are **no make-up quizzes**. Instead, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **Writing Assignments**

Students will be required to complete two **in-class** writing assignments over the course of the semester (worth 15% each). The first will take place on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** and the second will take place on **November 25<sup>th</sup>**. In addition, students will write one paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font) **out of class** that will be due on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

All writing assignments are due in class. I do not accept emailed copies of papers. In addition, all work must be your own. 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://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>.

### **Exams**

There will be two exams in this course. Both exams will be content-driven, based largely on lectures and class discussions. The midterm exam will be on **October 11<sup>th</sup>**; the final

exam will be on **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

### **Grading**

Grades will be based on five different aspects of student performance: (1) in-class writing assignments (2) mid-term exam (3) paper (4) final exam (5) participation, attendance, and reading quizzes. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

**In-class writing assignments 30% (15% each)**

**Mid-term Exam 15%**

**Paper 15%**

**Final Exam 20%**

**Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes 20%**

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## **PART I: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS**

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### **WEEK ONE**

**Aug 19:** Introduction

**Aug 21:** The First "Global" War

**Aug 23: DISCUSSION:** *Introductions*

**Reading:** No Reading

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### **WEEK TWO**

**Aug 26:** Britain's "Swing to the East"

**Aug 28:** The Industrial Revolution

**Aug 30: DISCUSSION:** *The British in India*

**Reading:** Linda Colley, "Another Passage to India," *Captives*, 241-268.

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### **WEEK THREE**

**Sept 2: *No Classes***

**Sept 4:** Science, “Race,” and Empire

**Sept 6: DISCUSSION:** *Orientalism*

**Reading:** William Jones, “A Discourse on the Institution of a Society” (1784)

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#### **WEEK FOUR**

**Sept 9:** The French Revolution and its global repercussions

**Sept 11:** The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

**Sept 13: DISCUSSION:** *France and its eighteenth-century colonies*

**Reading:** “Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen” (1789)  
The Free Citizens of Color, *Address to the National Assembly*, (1789)  
*Letters from the Uprising of Vincent Ogé* (1790)

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## **PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM**

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#### **WEEK FIVE**

**Sept 16:** Age of Imperial Reform

**Sept 18:** Mid-century cultural transitions

**Sept 20: \*\*\*IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT\*\*\***

**Reading:** No reading

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#### **WEEK SIX**

**Sept 23:** Mid-century colonial crises

**Sept 25:** The modern nation state

**Sept 27: DISCUSSION:** *Belgium and its empire*

**Reading:** *King Leopold’s Ghost*, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, and 4

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#### **WEEK SEVEN**

**Sept 30:** New Imperialism I  
**Oct 2:** New Imperialism II  
**Oct 4: DISCUSSION:** *New Imperialism*

**Reading:** *King Leopold's Ghost*, Chapters 8, 10, 11, 12, and pages 304-306

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## WEEK EIGHT

**Oct 7:** Empire Comes Home  
**Oct 9:** Guest Speakers  
**Oct 11: \*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\*\***

**Reading:** No Reading

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## PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

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### WEEK NINE

**Oct 14:** *No Classes*  
**Oct 16:** The Great War  
**Oct 18: DISCUSSION:** *World War I and the imperial perspective*

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

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### WEEK TEN

**Oct 21:** New Countries, New Colonies I  
**Oct 23:** New Countries, New Colonies II  
**Oct 25: DISCUSSION:** *Interwar Nationalism*

**Reading:** Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)

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### WEEK ELEVEN

**Oct 28:** The Second World War  
**Oct 30:** Reordering the postwar world

**Nov 1: DISCUSSION:** *World War II and the imperial perspective*

**Film:** *The Burma Boy*  
**\*\*\*No reading quiz\*\*\***

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## PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

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### WEEK TWELVE

**Nov 4:** Decolonization I                      **\*\*\*PAPER DUE\*\*\***  
**Nov 6:** Decolonization II  
**Nov 8: DISCUSSION:** *Decolonization and Violence*

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

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### WEEK THIRTEEN

**Nov 11: FILM:** *Amandla!*  
**Nov 13: FILM:** *Amandla!*  
**Nov 15: DISCUSSION:** *Amandla!*   **\*\*\*No reading quiz\*\*\***

**Reading:** Begin Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

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### WEEK FOURTEEN

**Nov 18:** Legacies of Empire I  
**Nov 20:** Legacies of Empire II  
**Nov 22: DISCUSSION:** *The Colonial Impact*

**Reading:** Finish Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

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### WEEK FIFTEEN

**Nov 25: \*\*\*IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT\*\*\***  
**Nov 27: No Classes**  
**Nov 29: No Classes**

**Reading:** No Reading

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**WEEK SIXTEEN**

**Dec 2: Conclusion**

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**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 9, 2013, 8-11am\*\*\***

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