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

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

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.

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
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.

**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 20th and the second will take place on November 25th. In addition, students will write one paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font) out of class that will be due on November 4th. 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/](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 11th; the final
exam will be on **December 9**\(^{th}\). 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)

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)

PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Sept 16: Age of Imperial Reform
Sept 18: Mid-century cultural transitions
Sept 20: ***IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT***

Reading: No reading

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

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***

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

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)

WEEK THIRTEEN

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

Reading: Begin Achebe, Things Fall Apart

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

WEEK FIFTEEN

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

Reading: No Reading
WEEK SIXTEEN

Dec 2: Conclusion

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