

**HIS 208 01 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I: *EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES***  
**MW: 12:00-12:50pm, SOEB 202**

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**Professor:** Dr. Jill Bender

**Office:** MHRA 2116

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm; and by appointment.

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HIS 208 01, Fridays, 12:00-12:50pm, MHRA 1209

HIS 208 02, Fridays, 1:00-1:50pm, MHRA 1209

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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:

1. Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of modern Europe's imperial expansion.
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary sources representing different points of view.
3. Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
4. 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*

All other reading material is available on the course Canvas 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, please see me for suggestions.

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Participation and Attendance** (SLO 1, 2, 4)

To perform well in this course, you must attend all lectures and discussions, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. Attendance will be taken at the start of all classes—lectures and discussion sections.

Your participation grade will be based on the Friday discussion sections led by the teaching assistant. The grade consists of your participation in discussion sections and your performance on reading quizzes. Weekly reading assignments should be completed in preparation for Friday discussions, and students must come prepared to participate—in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings. Students should bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.

**Attendance at discussion sections is mandatory.** For each unexcused absence from discussion sections, 3 points will be deducted from your final participation grade. Students who regularly arrive late or leave early without permission will be marked absent.

### **Reading Quizzes**

Most 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 Canvas. 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** (SLO 2, 3)

Students will be required to complete two **in-class** writing assignments over the course of the semester. The first will take place on **September 18<sup>th</sup>** and the second will take place on **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. In addition, students complete one **out-of-class** writing assignment, which will be due on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

### **Exams** (SLO 1, 3)

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 9<sup>th</sup>**; the final exam will be on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

All work must be your own. 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/>. If you have further questions regarding this policy, please consult me or your teaching assistant.

## Grading

Grades will be based on three different aspects of student performance: (1) writing assignments (2) exams and (3) participation (including attendance and reading quizzes). The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

<b>Writing Assignments</b>	<b>45% total</b>
In-class writing assignment #1	15%
Out-of-class writing assignment	15%
In-class writing assignment #2	15%
<b>Exams</b>	<b>35% total</b>
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
<b>Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes</b>	<b>20% total</b>

## Grading Scale

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

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## PART I: GLOBAL CONFLICT AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

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### WEEK ONE

**Aug 17:** Introduction

**Aug 19:** The First “Global” War

**Aug 21: DISCUSSION:** *Introductions*

**Reading:**     *No Reading*

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### WEEK TWO

**Aug 24:** Europe’s “Swing to the East”

**Aug 26:** The Industrial Revolution

**Aug 28: DISCUSSION:** *The British in India*

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

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### WEEK THREE

**Aug 31:** Science, “Race,” and Empire

**Sept 2:** The French Revolution and its global repercussions

**Sept 4: DISCUSSION:** *Orientalism*

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

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#### WEEK FOUR

**Sept 7:** *No Classes*

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

**Sept 11: 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 RISE OF “NEW” IMPERIALISM

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#### WEEK FIVE

**Sept 14:** Age of Imperial Reform

**Sept 16:** The modern nation state

**Sept 18: \*\*\*IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT\*\*\***

**Reading:** *No reading*

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#### WEEK SIX

**Sept 21:** Mid-century colonial crises

**Sept 23:** Mid-century cultural transitions

**Sept 25: DISCUSSION:** *Belgium and its empire*

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

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#### WEEK SEVEN

**Sept 28:** New Imperialism I  
**Sept 30:** New Imperialism II  
**Oct 2: DISCUSSION:** *New Imperialism*

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

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## WEEK EIGHT

**Oct 5:** Empire Comes Home  
**Oct 7:** midterm review  
**Oct 9:** \*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\*\*

*Please note that October 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdraw failing).*

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## PART III: GLOBAL CONFLICT

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### WEEK NINE

**Oct 12:** *No Classes*  
**Oct 14:** The Great War  
**Oct 16: 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 19:** New Countries, New Colonies I  
**Oct 21:** New Countries, New Colonies II  
**Oct 23: DISCUSSION:** *Interwar Nationalism*

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

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### WEEK ELEVEN

**Oct 26:** The Second World War  
**Oct 28:** Reordering the postwar world  
**Oct 30: DISCUSSION:** *World War II and the imperial perspective*

**Film:** *The Burma Boy:*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeracorrespondent/2011/08/2011828135228487172.html>

**\*\*\*No reading quiz\*\*\***

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## PART VI: DECOLONIZATION

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### WEEK TWELVE

**Nov 2:** Decolonization I      **\*\*\*WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

**Nov 4:** Decolonization II

**Nov 6: DISCUSSION:** *Decolonization and Violence*

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

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### WEEK THIRTEEN

**Nov 9: FILM:** *Amandla!*

**Nov 11: FILM:** *Amandla!*

**Nov 13: DISCUSSION:** *Amandla!*      **\*\*\*no reading quiz\*\*\***

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

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### WEEK FOURTEEN

**Nov 16:** Legacies of Empire I

**Nov 18:** Legacies of Empire II

**Nov 20: DISCUSSION:** *The Colonial Impact*

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

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### WEEK FIFTEEN

**Nov 23: \*\*\*IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT\*\*\***

**Nov 25:** *No Classes*

**Nov 27:** *No Classes*

**Reading:** *No Reading*

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**WEEK SIXTEEN**

**Nov 30:** Conclusion

**Reading:** *No Reading*

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**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 4, 12-3pm\*\*\***

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