

**HIS 208 03 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I:
EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES
MWF: 10:00-10:50am, SOEB 204**

Professor: Dr. Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2116

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

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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.

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. Students who regularly arrive late or leave early without permission will be marked absent.

Discussions and Reading Quizzes

Your participation is based on all Friday classes labeled “**DISCUSSION**” on the syllabus. The grade consists of your participation in class discussions and your performance on reading quizzes. Weekly reading assignments should be completed in advance of all Friday discussions. Students must come to these classes prepared to participate—in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings. *Students must bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings—if a student neglects to do so, his or her participation grade will reflect the lack of preparation.* Discussions will begin with a short (10 minute) 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 18th** and the second will take place on **November 23rd**. In addition, students will complete one **out-of-class** writing assignment, which will be due on **November 2nd**. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

Exams (SLO 1 and SLO 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 9th**; the final exam will be on **December 2nd**. 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.

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:

Writing Assignments	45% total
In-class writing assignment #1	15%
Out-of-class writing assignment	15%
In-class writing assignment #2	15%

Exams	35% total
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes	20% total

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	

PART I: GLOBAL CONFLICT AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ONE

Aug 17: Introduction
Aug 19: The First “Global” War
Aug 21: DISCUSSION: *Introductions*

Reading: No Reading

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.

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)

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)

PART II: THE RISE OF “NEW” IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Sept 14: Age of Imperial Reform

Sept 16: The modern nation state

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

Reading: *No reading*

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

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

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 5: Empire Comes Home

Oct 7: midterm review

Oct 9: *MIDTERM EXAM*****

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

PART III: GLOBAL CONFLICT

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)

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)

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*****

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

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)

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 9: FILM: *Amandla!*

Nov 11: FILM: *Amandla!*

Nov 13: DISCUSSION: *Amandla!* *****No class—discussion will take place via Canvas*****

Reading: Begin Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

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*

WEEK FIFTEEN

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

Nov 25: *No Classes*

Nov 27: *No Classes*

Reading: *No Reading*

WEEK SIXTEEN

Nov 30: Conclusion

Reading: *No Reading*

*****FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 2, 12-3pm*****
