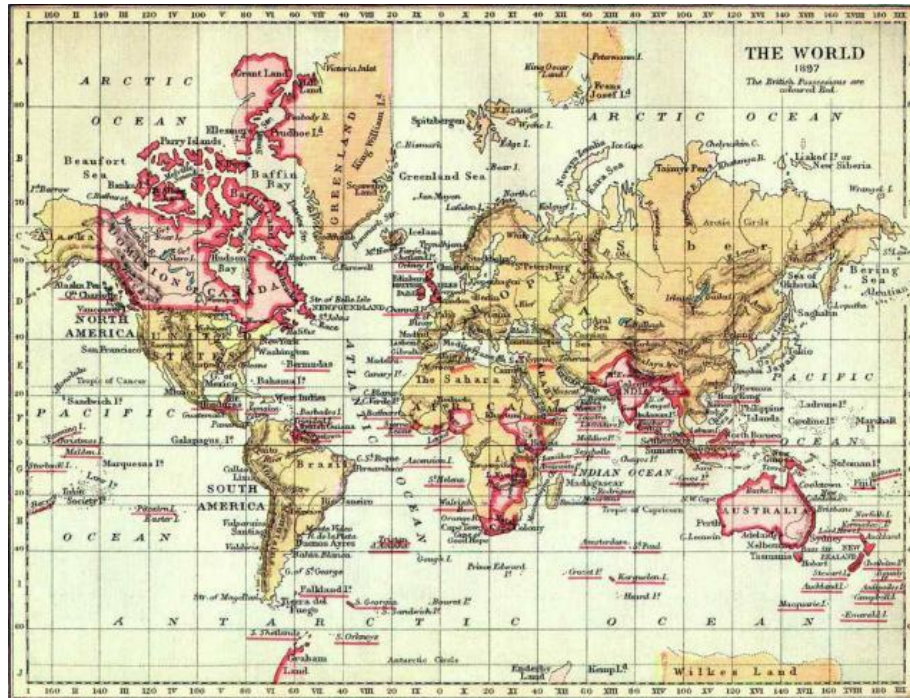

HIS 314 01: The Modern British Empire, 1750 to the Present T/TH 12:30-1:45pm, MHRA 2209



Instructor: Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2116

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00pm; Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm; and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From the mid-eighteenth century to the 1960s, the British Empire was the most powerful empire in the world. At its height, the British Empire ruled a quarter of the world's population, controlled a fifth of its dry land surface, and dominated its oceans. As a result, British imperialism significantly shaped the modern era. This course examines the rise and decline of the British Empire from roughly the loss of the American colonies to the aftermath of decolonization. We will examine a variety of sources for insight into colonial encounters and the later interpretations of historians. Major themes include: the changing nature of imperial expansion, methods of colonial rule, the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized, challenges to imperial control, and the continuing legacies of British imperialism.

Student Learning Objectives:

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

1. Identify the significance of major people, places, and events in the history of the modern British Empire
2. Analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
4. Develop a scholarly bibliography.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following books are available for purchase at the university bookstore:

Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset*, 2nd ed. (Harlow, England: Pearson Longman, 2013).

Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*, 2nd ed. (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

All other reading material will be available on the course Canvas site or distributed in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation

To perform well in this course, you must attend all classes, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. A portion of most class meetings will involve discussion and often group work. With this in mind, students should complete all reading assignments in advance and come to classes prepared to participate—in other words, ready to ask questions, discuss the assigned readings, and participate in any in-class assignments. ***Students must bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.***

Papers (SLO 2 and SLO 3)

Students will be required to write four short papers over the course of the semester (due September 8th, September 29th, October 27th, November 22nd). These papers are designed to build your understanding of primary and secondary source analysis. All papers should be uploaded to Canvas by 5pm on the day they are due. Additional information on each paper topic will be provided in advance.

All papers need to be double-spaced, with 12 point font, and standard margins. Please cite sources using footnotes or endnotes. Plagiarism is a breach of the university's academic integrity policy. For more information on this policy, see <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/plagiarism/>.

Exams (SLO 1 and SLO 4)

There will be two exams in this course. Both exams will include an in-class and out-of-class portion. The mid-term exam will be on Thursday, October 13th. The final exam will be on Thursday, December 8th. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams. Unless a student can provide a properly documented excuse (preferably in advance), there will be no make-up exam for either the midterm or the final exam—mark your calendars now!

Grading

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

Papers	50% total
Primary Source Analysis #1	10%
Primary Source Analysis #2	15%
Secondary Source Analysis #1	10%
Secondary Source Analysis #2	15%
Exams	35% total
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation and in-class assignments	15%

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	

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Aug 23: Introduction

Aug 25: The Empire Begins...

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Preface; Chapter 1
Ferguson, *Empire*, Chapter 1, pages 1-20

WEEK TWO

Aug 30: Crisis in the Atlantic Empire

Read: L. Colley, *Captives*, “Revolutions,” 203-238.

Recommended Reading: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 3

Sept 1: After America: A Second British Empire?

Read: No Reading Assignment

WEEK THREE

Sept 6: Humanitarianism, Evangelicalism, and Abolition

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 2

William Wilberforce, "The African Slave Trade" (1789) (excerpt)

"Abolition in the British Colonies," *The Times*, May 14, 1833

Sept 8: The British in India

*****PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS #1 DUE*****

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 71-82

Mountstuart Elphinstone, "Indian Customs and Manners" (1840)

T. Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" (1835)

WEEK FOUR

Sept 13: The Settler Colonies

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 4

J. S. Mill, "On Colonies and Colonization" (1848)

The Treaty of Waitangi (1840)

Sept 15: Informal Empire

Read: John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," *The Economic History Review* 6, 1 (1953)

Listen to: *Talking Empire: The Gallagher-Robinson Controversy*, Episode one: Jack Gallagher, Ronald Robinson and 'The Imperialism of Free Trade'

<https://soundcloud.com/university-of-exeter/talking-empire-1>

WEEK FIVE

Sept 20: The Irish Question

Read: Documents on Pre-Famine and Famine Ireland

Recommended Reading: Kevin Kenny, "Ireland and the British Empire: an Introduction," *Ireland and the British Empire*, 1-25.

Sept 22: Race and the British Empire

Read: Thomas Carlyle, "Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question," *Fraser's Magazine* (1849)
J. S. Mill, "The Negro Question," *Fraser's Magazine* (1850)

WEEK SIX

Sept 27: The Empire Strikes Back?

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, pgs. 85-91
Documents on the 1857 Indian Uprising

Sept 29: Indentured Labor in the British Empire

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 8

*****PRIMARY SOURCE
ANALYSIS #2 DUE*****

WEEK SEVEN

Oct 4: Britain and Africa

Read: Getz and Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, 1-93

Recommended Reading: Levine, *The British Empire*, chapters 6 and 9

Oct 6: Representations of Empire

Read: Getz and Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, 95-137

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 11: Exam Review

Oct 13: Exam I

WEEK NINE

Oct 18: *No Classes*

Oct 20: The South African War

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 7
Documents on the South African War

WEEK TEN

Oct 25: World War I

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 180-187

Oct 27: The Rise of Nationalism

Film: *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*

*****SECONDARY SOURCE
ANALYSIS #1 DUE*****

WEEK ELEVEN

Nov 1: Empire's Discontents: Ireland

Read: Donal Ó Drisceoil, "Framing the Irish Revolution: Ken Loach's *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*," *Radical History Review* 104 (Spring 2009): 5-15.
Roy Foster, "The Red and the Green," *Dublin Review*, no. 24 (Autumn 2006): 43-51.
Stephen Howe, "The Wind That Shakes the Barley: Ken Loach and Irish History," www.opendemocracy.net/arts-Film/loach_3650.jsp

Nov 3: Empire and film

Discussion: *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*

WEEK TWELVE

Nov 8: From Empire to Commonwealth

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 188-205
John Darwin, "A Third British Empire? The Dominion Idea in Imperial Politics?" *The Oxford History of the British Empire*, vol. IV: *The Twentieth Century* (Oxford: OUP, 1999), 64-87.

Nov 10: The End of Empire

Read: Documents on the 'transfer of power' to India

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 15: Decolonization

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 11

Nov 17: Decolonization and its Aftermath

Read: Stephen Howe, "Flakking the Mau Mau Catchers," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 39, 5 (2011): 695-697.

Listen to: Mau Mau, Radiolab

Select Articles from the following:

David M. Anderson, "Mau Mau in the High Court and the 'Lost' British Empire Archives: Colonial Conspiracy or Bureaucratic Bungle?" *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 699-716.

Hugh Bennett, "Soldiers in the Court Room: The British Army's Part in the Kenya Emergency under the Legal Spotlight," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 717-730.

Caroline Elkins, "Alchemy of Evidence: Mau Mau, the British Empire, and the High Court of Justice," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 731-748.

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 22: Britain after Empire

*****SECONDARY SOURCE ANALYSIS #2 DUE*****

Read: Bhikhu Parekh, *The future of multi-ethnic Britain: report of the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain* (London: Profile Books, 2000). (excerpts)

Nov 24: *No Class*

WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 29: Empire After Britain

Read: R. K. Narayan, "Lawley Road" (1956)

Dec 1: Conclusion

*****Exam II: Thursday, December 8, 12:00-3:00pm*****
