

HIS 208 01 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I: *EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES*
MW: 11:00-11:50 a.m., SOEB 206

Professor: Dr. Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2111

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; and by appointment

Email: jcbender@uncg.edu

Phone: 336-334-5209

Teaching Assistant: Ashley Loper, anloper@uncg.edu
HIS 208 01, Fridays, 11:00-11:50 a.m., SOEB 214
HIS 208 02, Fridays, 12:00-12:50 a.m., 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.

General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Perspectives (GL) Student Learning Outcomes.

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of modern Europe's imperial expansion.
 2. 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: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999).

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994). This novel has been published numerous times—any edition is fine.

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 (GHP 1, 2; GL 1, 2, 3; SLO 1, 2)

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 to class meetings. Attendance will be taken at the start of all classes—lectures and discussion sections. 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 (GHP 1, 2; GL 1, 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 15th** and the second will take place on **November 20th**. In addition, students complete one **out-of-class** writing assignment, which will be due on **October 27th**. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

Exams (GHP 2; GL 2; SLO 1)

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 6th**; the final exam will be on **December 4th**. 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:

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	

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with any questions or needs related to academic accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), located in the Elliot University Center, Suite 215. For more information, please see <https://ods.uncg.edu>.

Digital Devices

Unless instructed by the professor, please do not use laptop computers, cell phones, or other digital devices during lectures. Students with any extenuating circumstance (for example, appropriate documentation from OARS), should notify the professor. The TA will determine whether digital devices are permitted during discussion sections.

PART I: GLOBAL CONFLICT AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ONE

Aug 14: *No Classes*

Aug 16: Introduction

Aug 18: DISCUSSION: *Introductions*

Reading: No Reading

WEEK TWO

Aug 21: The First “Global” War

Aug 23: Europe’s “Swing to the East”

Aug 25: DISCUSSION: *The British in India*

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

WEEK THREE

Aug 28: Science, “Race,” and Empire

Aug 30: The French Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 1: DISCUSSION: *Orientalism*

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

WEEK FOUR

Sept 4: *No Classes*

Sept 6: The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 8: 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 11: The Industrial Revolution

Sept 13: Age of Imperial Reform

Sept 15: ***IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT***

Reading: No reading

WEEK SIX

Sept 18: The modern nation state

Sept 20: Mid-century colonial crises

Sept 22: DISCUSSION: *Belgium and its empire*

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

WEEK SEVEN

Sept 25: Mid-century cultural transitions

Sept 27: New Imperialism I

Sept 29: DISCUSSION: *New Imperialism*

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

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 2: New Imperialism II

Oct 4: midterm review

Oct 6: ***MIDTERM EXAM***

PART III: GLOBAL CONFLICT

WEEK NINE

Oct 9: **No Classes**—Please note that October 9th is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdraw failing).

Oct 11: The Great War

Oct 13: 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 16: New Countries, New Colonies I

Oct 18: New Countries, New Colonies II

Oct 20: DISCUSSION: *Interwar Nationalism*

Reading: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)

WEEK ELEVEN

Oct 23: The Second World War

Oct 25: Film: *The Burma Boy*

Oct 27: DISCUSSION: *World War II and the imperial perspective*

Film: This week's discussion will be based on the film, *The Burma Boy*.
WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

PART VI: DECOLONIZATION

WEEK TWELVE

Oct 30: Decolonization I

Nov 1: Decolonization II

Nov 3: **DISCUSSION:** *Decolonization and Violence*

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

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 6: **FILM:** *Amandla!*

Nov 8: **FILM:** *Amandla!*

Nov 10: **DISCUSSION:** *Amandla!*

Reading: This week's discussion will be based on *Amandla!*, but I encourage you to begin reading Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*.

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 13: Legacies of Empire I

Nov 15: Legacies of Empire II

Nov 17: **DISCUSSION:** *The Colonial Impact*

Reading: Finish Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 20: *****IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

Nov 22: *No Classes*

Nov 24: *No Classes*

Reading: No Reading

WEEK SIXTEEN

Nov 27: Conclusion

Nov 29: Final Review

Reading: No Reading

*****FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 4, 12:00-3:00 p.m.*****
