

HIS 208 01 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I: *EUROPEAN EMPIRES AND COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS*

MWF: 11:00-11:50 a.m., SOEB 206

Instructor Information:

Professor: Dr. Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2111

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00pm. (You do not need to make an appointment to attend my designated office hours; instead, you should feel free to just stop by. If these days/times do not work for you, please do not hesitate to email me and we can schedule a more convenient meeting time.)

Email: jcbender@uncg.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The empires of France and Britain once included 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. Germany, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, and other European countries also once sought empires of their own. European imperialism, in other words, is a reality of the past and has significantly shaped the world in which we live. This course provides a historical survey of European imperialism from the mid-eighteenth century to the late-twentieth century. We will pay particular attention to the cultural, social, and political ramifications of colonial encounters.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

MAC, Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities and Fine Arts (MHFA)

Competencies:

Through these courses, students acquire a working knowledge of the foundational tools for reasoning, including constructing sound arguments, evaluating the quality of evidence, and forming judgments about the evidence, arguments, and conclusions of others in Humanities and Fine Arts disciplines.

In a Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities and Fine Arts course, students will:

1. Critically analyze claims, arguments, artifacts or information.
2. Construct coherent, evidence-based arguments.

History Department Student Learning Outcomes (SLO).

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
 2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]
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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 required:**

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. (This book is also available as an e-book through Jackson Library, see: <https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1031966633>.)

I have placed copies on reserve at Jackson Library and also ordered copies for purchase from the university bookstore. All other reading material will be 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 textbook in addition to the required readings, please see me for suggestions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation

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.

Quizzes

Most Friday 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 (MAC 1, 2; SLO 2)

Students will be required to complete two **in-class** writing assignments over the course of the semester. The first will take place on **September 16** and the second will take place on **November 21**. In addition, students complete one **out-of-class** writing assignment, which will be due on **October 28**. All writing assignments will be open-book and topics will be provided in advance.

Exams (MAC 1; SLO 1)

There will be two exams in this course. Both exams will be content-driven, based largely on lectures and class discussions. Exam 1 will be on **October 7**; Exam 2 will be on **December 5**. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

EVALUATION & GRADING:

Assignment Weights

Semester grades will be based on three different components: (1) participation & quizzes, (2) exams, (3), and writing assignments. All assignments must be submitted to complete the course. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

Participation & Quizzes	15% total	
Exams	40% total	
Exam 1	20%	
Exam 2	20%	
Writing Assignments	45% total	
In-class writing assignment #1		15%
Out-of-class writing assignment		15%
In-class writing assignment #2		15%

In keeping with UNCG policy, we will post a midterm grade for you in UNCGenie by the end of the sixth week of the term (September 23rd). That grade will not appear on your transcript or in your GPA calculations. Instead, it is intended to help you and your academic advisor understand how you are doing in the course up to that point. If you review your midterm grade and find it to be lower than you hoped, I encourage you to talk to me and your TA, so we can make a plan together for your success. Please realize that this grade will only incorporate those assignments completed and graded by September 23rd.

Grading Scale

A: 94-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A-: 90-94	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

Academic Integrity Policy

By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work for the course. Refer to the following URL: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

ACCESSIBILITY, ACCOMMODATIONS, & UNCG RESOURCES:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must connect with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliot University Center, (336)334-5440. For more information, please see <https://ods.uncg.edu>.

Religious Obligations Statement

It is expected that instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts due to religious obligations. Please make arrangements with the instructor in advance of any conflict. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3_J3Uix1B4UeTV4Nk1vVFJoVFE/view?resourcekey=0-zRdXEmUA6rRI2RzKqo6u3g

Attendance Policy for University Sponsored Events

Regular class attendance is a responsibility and a privilege of university education. It is fundamental to the orderly acquisition of knowledge. Students should recognize the advantages of regular class attendance, accept it as a personal responsibility, and apprise themselves of the consequences of poor attendance. Instructors should stress the importance of these responsibilities to students, set appropriate class attendance policies for their classes, and inform students of their requirements in syllabi and orally at the beginning of each term.

Although you will not be graded on attendance, please note that the exams rely very heavily on information covered in lectures, and consequently students who miss class often will not be in a position to do well on the exams. Similarly, if a student is not present for discussions, it will be impossible for them to participate. If you have to miss a class for a university sponsored event or another legitimate reason, please notify the professor as soon as possible to arrange accommodations.

COVID-19

As we return for Fall 2022, all students, faculty, and staff and all visitors to campus are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. While face-coverings are optional in most areas on campus, individuals are encouraged to wear masks. All individuals and visitors to campus are asked to follow the following actions:

- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staying home when ill.
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.
- Completing a self-report when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the COVID-19 website.

Students who are ill, quarantining, or isolating should not attend in-person class meetings, but should instead contact their instructor(s) so alternative arrangements for learning and the submission of assignments can be made where possible.

As we continue to manage COVID-19 on our campus, we are following the lead of the local health department and we will adjust our plans to balance student success, instructional requirements, and the hallmarks of the collegiate experience with the safety and wellbeing of our campus community.

Health and Wellness

Please realize that UNCG has resources available to help combat stress and anxiety—and really to offer support for any range of emotions. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu.

CLASS MEETINGS

***This schedule is subject to change at the professor's discretion**

WEEK ONE

Aug 15: *No Classes*

Aug 17: Introduction

Aug 19: DISCUSSION: *Introductions*

Read: No Reading

Watch: *Primary and Secondary Sources in History*

UNIT I: EUROPEAN EMPIRES & THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK TWO

Aug 22: The First “Global” War

(Please note that the Drop/Add period ends on Aug. 22. This is the last day to change course(s) or course section(s) for the Standard Term. This is the last day to withdraw for tuition and fees refund; the course withdrawal policy will be in effect after this date.)

Aug 24: Britain’s “Swing to the East”

Aug 26: DISCUSSION: *The British in India*

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

WEEK THREE

Aug 29: Science, “Race,” and Empire

Aug 31: The French Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 2: DISCUSSION: *Orientalism*

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

WEEK FOUR

Sept 5: *No Classes*

Sept 7: The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 9: DISCUSSION: *France, Saint Domingue, & Revolution*

Read: “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)

WEEK FIVE

Sept 12: The Industrial Revolution

Sept 14: An Age of Imperial Reform

Sept 16: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

UNIT 2: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY & THE RISE OF “NEW” IMPERIALISM

WEEK SIX

Sept 19: The Modern Nation State

Sept 21: Mid-century colonial crises

Sept 23: DISCUSSION: *Belgium and its empire*

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

WEEK SEVEN

Sept 26: Nineteenth-century cultural transitions

Sept 28: New Imperialism (part 1)

Sept 30: DISCUSSION: *New Imperialism: The Belgian Congo*

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

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 3: New Imperialism (part 2)

Oct 5: Exam Review

Oct 7: *EXAM 1*****

[Please note that October 7 is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF (withdraw failing) grade.]

UNIT 3: GLOBAL CONFLICT & ANTI-COLONIAL NATIONALISM

WEEK NINE

Oct 10: No Classes

Oct 12: The Great War

Oct 14: DISCUSSION: *World War I & a colonial perspective*

Read: David Omissi, *Indian Voices of the Great War: Soldiers' Letters, 1914-1918* (excerpt)

WEEK TEN

Oct 17: New Countries, New Colonies (part 1)

Oct 19: New Countries, New Colonies (part 2)

Oct 21: DISCUSSION: *Gandhi & Anti-Colonial Nationalism*

Read: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)

WEEK ELEVEN

Oct 24: The Second World War

Oct 26: Film: *The Burma Boy*

Oct 28: DISCUSSION: *World War II & a colonial perspective*

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

*****WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE*****

UNIT 4: DECOLONIZATION & THE END OF EMPIRE

WEEK TWELVE

Oct 31: Decolonization (part 1)

Nov 2: Decolonization (part 2)

Nov 4: DISCUSSION: *Decolonization & Violence*

Read: Excerpt from Frantz Fanon, "On Violence," *The Wretched of the Earth*

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 7: Film: *Amandla!*

Nov 9: Film: *Amandla!*

Nov 11: DISCUSSION: *Amandla!*

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

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 14: Legacies of Empire (part 1)

Nov 16: Legacies of Empire (part 2)

Nov 18: DISCUSSION: *Imperial Legacies*

Read: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 21: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

Nov 23: *No Classes*

Nov 25: *No Classes*

WEEK SIXTEEN

Nov 28: Conclusions

Nov 30: Exam Review

***** EXAM 2: Monday, December 5, 2022, 12:00-3:00pm*****
