

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

MWF: 11:00-11:50 a.m., BRYN 112

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 don't 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 & Quizzes (MAC 1; SLO 2)

Your participation grade will be based on the Friday discussion sections. 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.

Most classes marked “DISCUSSION” 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 one **in-class** writing assignment and one **out-of-class** writing assignment over the course of the semester. The **in-class** writing assignment will take place on **September 16th** and the **out-of-class** writing assignment will be due on **October 27th**. 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 6**; Exam 2 will be on **December 4**. 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	45% total
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Writing Assignments	40% total
In-class writing assignment	20%
Out-of-class writing assignment	20%

In keeping with UNCG policy, I will post a midterm grade for you in UNCGenie by the end of the sixth week of the term (September 22nd). 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, 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 22nd.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: < 60
A-: 90-92	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.

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, resulting in a 0 for that week's participation and quiz grade. If you have to miss a class for a university sponsored event or another legitimate reason, please notify me as soon as possible to arrange accommodations.

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 14: No Classes

Aug 16: Introduction

Aug 18: DISCUSSION: *What is an Empire?*

Read: No Reading

UNIT I: EUROPEAN EMPIRES & THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK TWO

Aug 21: The First "Global" War

(Please note that the Drop/Add period ends on Aug. 21. 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 23: Britain's "Swing to the East"

Aug 25: DISCUSSION: *The British in India*

Watch: *Primary and Secondary Sources in History*

Read: 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*

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

WEEK FOUR

Sept 4: No Class

Sept 6: The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

Sept 8: 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 11: The Industrial Revolution

Sept 13: An Age of Imperial Reform

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

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

WEEK SIX

Sept 18: The Modern Nation State

Sept 20: Mid-century colonial crises

Sept 22: **DISCUSSION: *Belgium and its empire***

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

WEEK SEVEN

Sept 25: Nineteenth-century cultural transitions

Sept 27: New Imperialism (part 1)

Sept 29: **DISCUSSION: *New Imperialism: The Belgian Congo***

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

WEEK EIGHT

Oct 2: New Imperialism (part 2)

Oct 4: **Exam Review**

Oct 6: ***EXAM 1***

[Please note that October 6 is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF (withdraw failing) grade.]

UNIT 3: GLOBAL CONFLICT & ANTI-COLONIAL NATIONALISM

WEEK NINE

Oct 9: **No Classes**

Oct 11: The Great War

Oct 13: **DISCUSSION: *World War I & a colonial perspective***

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

WEEK TEN

Oct 16: New Countries, New Colonies (part 1)

Oct 18: New Countries, New Colonies (part 2)

Oct 20: DISCUSSION: *Gandhi & Anti-Colonial Nationalism*

Read: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)

WEEK ELEVEN

Oct 23: The Second World War

Oct 25: Film: *The Burma Boy*

Oct 27: 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 30: Decolonization (part 1)

Nov 1: Decolonization (part 2)

Nov 3: DISCUSSION: *Decolonization & Violence*

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

WEEK THIRTEEN

Nov 6: Film: *Amandla!*

Nov 8: Film: *Amandla!*

Nov 10: *No Class*

WEEK FOURTEEN

Nov 13: DISCUSSION: *Amandla!*

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

Nov 15: Legacies of Empire (part 1)

Nov 17: Legacies of Empire (part 2)

WEEK FIFTEEN

Nov 20: DISCUSSION: *Imperial Legacies*

Read: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
Nov 22: No Class
Nov 24: No Class

WEEK SIXTEEN

Nov 27: Conclusions
Nov 29: Exam Review

***** EXAM 2: Monday, December 4, 2023, 12:00-3:00pm*****
