In the 1820s, the British Empire encompassed 1/5 of the world’s population. By the 1920s, the British Empire covered more than 14 million square miles of the world’s surface. And the British Empire is only one example of the world’s empires. 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.

Learning Objectives:
1. By the completion of the course, students will be able to identify and give the significance of the major events, peoples, and debates in the history of Europe’s modern imperial expansion.
2. Students will develop the ability to construct and support an analytical argument based on primary historical sources. These skills will be developed both through writing assignments and classroom discussions.
3. Students will be introduced to the historical origins of significant debates in today’s world.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Throughout the semester, we will examine and analyze a variety of historical sources – from political documents to films to novels. The following books are required and available 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 Blackboard site or will be distributed in class.

*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, I have placed The Earth and It is Peoples on reserve.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation
To perform well in this course, you must attend all lectures, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. Attendance is mandatory. Most class meetings will involve some discussion. With that in mind, students should complete all reading assignments in advance and come to classes prepared to participate – in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the assigned readings. I recommend that students bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.

Quizzes
There will be four quizzes during the semester, one for each part of the course. These quizzes will be short (10 minute) writing assignments based on the readings. Quizzes will be graded on a scale of 10, and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Writing Assignments
Students will be required to complete two writing assignments over the course of the semester. The first writing assignment will take place in class on February 2nd. The second writing assignment will be completed outside of class and will be due on March 29th. Writing topics will be provided in advance of both due dates. Writing assignments are due in class. I do not accept emailed copies of papers.

Exams
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 March 1st; the final exam will be on April 27th.

Academic Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with the university’s academic integrity policy: http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/.

Grading
Grades will be based on five different aspects of your performance: (1) in-class writing assignment (2) mid-term exam (3) paper (4) final exam (5) participation/quizzes. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

- In-class writing assignment 20%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Paper 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Participation and Quizzes 10%
PART I: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ONE

Jan 10: Introduction

Jan 12: The First “Global” War
   Reading: No reading assignment

WEEK TWO

Jan 17: Britain’s Swing to the East
   Reading: Linda Colley, “Another Passage to India,” Captives, 241-268.
   ***Reading Quiz***

Jan 19: Science, “Race,” and Empire
   Reading: Documents on Orientalism

WEEK THREE

Jan 24: The Industrial Revolution and its global repercussions
   Reading: No reading assignment

Jan 26: The French Revolution and its global repercussions
   Documents on the French Revolution

WEEK FOUR

Jan 31: Napoleon’s Empire

Feb 2: ***IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT ***
PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Feb 7: Abolition
   Reading: No reading assignment

Feb 9: Mid-century conflicts
   Reading: Documents from the 1857 Indian rebellion and the Morant Bay rebellion

WEEK SIX

Feb 14: Mid-century cultural transitions
   Reading: No reading assignment, but I recommend that you begin King Leopold’s Ghost

Feb 16: The modern nation state
   Reading: Begin King Leopold’s Ghost

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 21: New Imperialism I
   Reading: Continue King Leopold’s Ghost
   ***Reading Quiz***

Feb 23: New Imperialism II
   Reading: Finish King Leopold’s Ghost

WEEK EIGHT

Feb 28: Review

Mar 1: ***MID-TERM EXAM***
PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

WEEK NINE

Mar 6: No Classes
Mar 8: No Classes

WEEK TEN

Mar 13: The Great War

Mar 15: No Class

WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 20: New Countries, New Colonies I
  Reading: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)
  ***Reading Quiz***

Mar 22: New Countries, New Colonies II
  Reading: Documents on the League of Nations

WEEK TWELVE

Mar 27: The Second World War
  Reading: No reading assignment

Mar 29: Film: *The Burma Boy*  ***PAPER TWO DUE***
  Reading: No reading assignment, we will view and discuss *The Burma Boy* in class.

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION
WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 3: Reordering the Post-war World  
    Reading: No reading assignment

Apr 5: Decolonization I: Britain and India  
    Reading: Documents on Partition

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 10: Decolonization II: France and Algeria  
    Reading: Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (excerpt)

Apr 12: Legacies of Empire I  
    Reading: Begin Achebe, Things Fall Apart

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 17: Legacies of Empire II  
    Reading: Finish Achebe, Things Fall Apart  
    ***Reading Quiz***

Apr 19: Conclusion

***FINAL EXAM: Friday, April 27, 3:30-6:30pm***