
HIS 208 01

TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I: European Expansion and Empires
T/TH 9:30-10:45am, MHRA 1215

Professor: Jill Bender

Office: 2116 MHRA Bldg.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00pm; Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm; and by appointment

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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.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Explain the significance of major events and people in the history of modern Europe's imperial expansion.
 2. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
 3. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary sources representing different points of view.
 4. Develop a coherent written argument based on primary source documents.
 5. Appreciate 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 and for purchase at the university bookstore:

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998).

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994).

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, however, I have placed *The Earth and It is Peoples* on reserve at the university library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Evaluation and grades will be based on five different aspects of student performance: (1) in-class writing assignment (2) midterm (3) paper (4) final exam (5) participation and reading quizzes. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

In-class writing assignments 30% (15% each)
Mid-term Exam 15%
Paper 15%
Final Exam 20%
Participation/Reading Quizzes 20%

Participation

Throughout the semester, there will be a number of short reading quizzes. These quizzes will be based on reading questions posted on Blackboard in advance. Each quiz will be 10 minutes long and will be graded on a scale of 1 to 10. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. The 20% participation grade will be based largely on these reading quizzes as well as group work and participation during class discussions. I will take attendance daily. Any unexcused absences will detract from the student's participation grade.

Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete two **in-class** writing assignments over the course of the semester (worth 15% each). The first will take place on **February 7th** and the second will take place on **April 18th**. In addition, students will write one paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font) **out of class** that will be due on **April 2nd**. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

All writing assignments are due in class. I do not accept emailed copies of papers. In addition, all work must be your own. Please cite your sources using footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical documentation. 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/>.

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 7th**; the final exam will be on **May 7th**. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

PART I: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ONE

Jan 15: Introduction

Jan 17: The First “Global” War

Reading: No reading assignment

WEEK TWO

Jan 22: Britain’s Swing to the East

Reading: Linda Colley, “Another Passage to India,” *Captives: Britain, Empire, and the World, 1600-1850* (New York: Anchor Books, 2004), 241-268.

*****Reading Quiz*****

Jan 24: Science, “Race,” and Empire

Reading: William Jones, “A Discourse of the Institution of a Society for Inquiring into the History, Civil and Natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literatures of Asia” (1784) in *Archives of Empire, Vol I: From the East India Company to the Suez Canal*, eds. Barbara Harlow and Mia Carter (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003), 223-227.

WEEK THREE

Jan 29: The Industrial Revolution and its global repercussions

Reading: No reading assignment

Jan 31: The French Revolution and its global repercussions

Reading: “‘Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen’ August 26, 1789,” *The French Revolution and Human Rights*, ed. and trans., Lynn Hunt (Boston; New York: Bedford/St Martin’s, 1996), 77-79.

Maya Jasanoff, “Invading Egypt,” *Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East 1750-1850*, 117-148.

*****Reading Quiz*****

WEEK FOUR

Feb 5: The Haitian Revolution and its global repercussions

Reading: “The Free Citizens of Color, Address to the National Assembly, October 22, 1789,” *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean 1789-1804*, eds. Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), 67-70.

“Letters from the Uprising of Vincent Ogé, October 1790,” *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean 1789-1804*, eds. Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), 75-78.

Feb 7: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT *****

PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Feb 12: Age of Imperial Reform

Reading: No reading assignment

Feb 14: Mid-century colonial conflicts

Reading: “The Bone Dust Story, (1857)” in *Archives of Empire, Vol I: From the East India Company to the Suez Canal*, eds. Barbara Harlow and Mia Carter (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003), 457-458.
“Selected Correspondence of Queen Victoria, (1857)” in *Archives of Empire*, 481-482.

WEEK SIX

Feb 19: Mid-century cultural transitions

Reading: No reading assignment, but I recommend that you start *King Leopold's Ghost* (Introduction and chapter 1)

Feb 21: The modern nation state

Reading: No reading assignment, but I recommend that you continue to read *King Leopold's Ghost* (chapters 2 and 4)

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 26: New Imperialism I

Reading: Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. (Introduction, chapters 1, 2, and 4)

Feb 28: New Imperialism II

Reading: Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. (chapters 8, 10, 11, 12, and pages 303-306)
*****Reading Quiz*****

WEEK EIGHT

Mar 5: Review for Midterm

Mar 7: *****MID-TERM EXAM*****

PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

WEEK NINE

Mar 12: *No Classes*

Mar 14: *No Classes*

WEEK TEN

Mar 19: The Great War

Reading: Omissi, David. *Indian Voices of the Great War: soldiers' letters, 1914-18*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Macmillan Press; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. (excerpts)
*****Reading Quiz*****

Mar 21: New Countries, New Colonies I

Reading: Sir Henry McMahon, "Letter to Ali ibn Husain, 1915"
(Fordham Internet Modern History Sourcebook:
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1915mcmahon.asp>)

"The Balfour Declaration"

(Fordham Internet Modern History Sourcebook:
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/balfour.asp>)

WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 26: New Countries, New Colonies II

Reading: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj; or, Indian Home Rule* (Ahmedabad, Navajivan Pub. House, 1939), 15-16, 67-75.
*****Reading Quiz*****

Mar 28: The Second World War

Reading: No reading assignment

WEEK TWELVE

Apr 2: *Film: The Burma Boy*

*****TAKE HOME ESSAY DUE*****

Reading: No reading assignment, we will view and discuss *The Burma Boy* in class.

Apr 4: Reordering the Post-war World

Reading: No reading assignment

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 9: Decolonization I: Britain and India

Reading: Documents on Partition

Apr 11:

Reading: *No Classes*

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 16: Decolonization II: France and Algeria

Reading: Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence," *The Wretched of the Earth* (excerpt), reprinted in Bruce B. Lawrence and Aisha Karim, eds. *On Violence: A Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007), 78-84.

Apr 18: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 23: Legacies of Empire I

Reading: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994).

Apr 25: Legacies of Empire II

Reading: Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994).
*****Reading Quiz*****

*****FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 12-3pm*****
