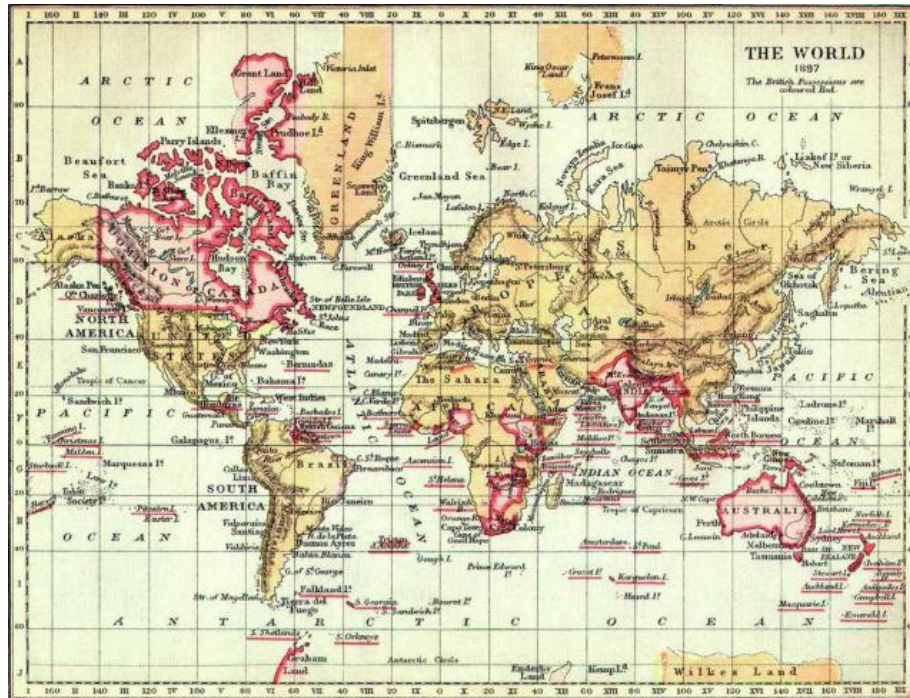

HIS 314 01: The Modern British Empire, 1750 to the Present T/TH 11:00am-12:15pm, MHRA 1215



Instructor: Jill Bender
Office: MHRA 2116
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00pm; Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm; and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From the mid-eighteenth century to the 1960s, the British Empire was the most powerful empire in the world. At its height, the British Empire ruled a quarter of the world's population, controlled a fifth of its dry land surface, and dominated its oceans. As a result, British imperialism significantly shaped the modern era. This course examines the rise and decline of the British Empire from roughly the loss of the American colonies to the aftermath of decolonization. We will examine a variety of sources for insight into colonial encounters and the later interpretations of historians. Major themes include: the changing nature of imperial expansion, methods of colonial rule, the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized, challenges to imperial control, and the continuing legacies of British imperialism.

Student Learning Objectives:

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

- Explain the significance of major people, places, and events in the history of the modern British Empire
- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
- Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following book is available for purchase at the university bookstore and on reserve at Jackson Library:

Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset* (Harlow, England: Pearson Longman, 2007).

All other reading material is available on the course Blackboard site or will be distributed in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation

To perform well in this course, you must attend all classes, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. A portion of most class meetings will involve discussion. With this in mind, students should complete all reading assignments in advance and come to classes prepared to participate – in other words, ready to ask questions, discuss the assigned readings, and participate in any in-class assignments. ***Students must bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings.***

Papers

Students will be required to write three papers over the course of the semester. The first will be due on February 14th, the second on March 28th, and the third on April 18th. Paper topics will be provided in advance. Papers are due in class. I do not accept emailed copies of papers.

All papers need to be double-spaced, with 12 point font, and standard margins. Please cite sources using footnotes or endnotes. Plagiarism is a breach of the university's academic integrity policy. For more information on this policy, see <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>.

Note on late papers: All papers are due on Thursdays. If you turn in your paper the following Tuesday, the grade will be reduced by 2/3 of a letter grade (i.e., an A paper becomes a B+). If you turn in your paper one week late, the grade will be reduced by a full letter grade (an A becomes a B). Papers will not be accepted after one week and a 0 will be recorded.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. Both exams will be content-driven, based largely on the lectures, readings, and class discussions. The mid-term exam will be on Thursday, March 7th. The final exam will be on Thursday, May 2nd. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

Grading

Grades will be based on four different aspects of student performance: (1) papers (2) mid-term exam (3) final exam (4) participation. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

Papers	45% (15% each)
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	20%

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Jan 15: Introduction

Jan 17: The Empire Begins...

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Preface; Chapter 1
Ferguson, *Empire*, Chapter 1, pages 1-20

WEEK TWO

Jan 22: Crisis in the Atlantic Empire

Read: L. Colley, *Captives*, "Revolutions," 203-238.
Recommended Reading: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 3

Jan 24: After America: A Second British Empire?

Read: No Reading Assignment

WEEK THREE

Jan 29: Humanitarianism, Evangelicalism, and Abolition

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 2
William Wilberforce, "The African Slave Trade" (1789) (excerpt)
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
(1789) (excerpt)

Jan 31: The British in India

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 61-73
Mountstuart Elphinstone, "Indian Customs and Manners" (1840)
T. Macaulay, "Minute on Indian Education" (1835)

WEEK FOUR

Feb 5: The Settler Colonies

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 4
J. S. Mill, "On Colonies and Colonization" (1848)
The Treaty of Waitangi (1840)

Feb 7: Informal Empire

Read: John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," *The Economic History Review* 6, 1 (1953)

WEEK FIVE

Feb 12: The Irish Question

Read: Documents on Pre-Famine and Famine Ireland
Recommended Reading: Kevin Kenny, "Ireland and the British Empire: an Introduction," *Ireland and the British Empire*, 1-25.

Feb 14: Race and the British Empire

*****ESSAY ONE DUE*****

Read: Thomas Carlyle, "Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question," *Fraser's Magazine* (1849)
J. S. Mill, "The Negro Question," *Fraser's Magazine* (1850)

WEEK SIX

Feb 19: The Empire Strikes Back?

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 76-81.
Documents on the Morant Bay Rebellion and the 1857 Indian Uprising

Feb 21: Gender and Imperialism

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 9

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 26: The 'New' Imperialism

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, Chapter 6

Feb 28: The South African War

Read: Sol T. Plaatje, *Mafeking Diary: A Black Man's View of a White Man's War*
(excerpt)

WEEK EIGHT

Mar 5: Review for Midterm

Mar 7: MIDTERM

WEEK NINE

Mar 12: *No Classes*

Mar 14: *No Classes*

WEEK TEN

Mar 19: World War I

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 166-170

Mar 21: The Rise of Nationalism

Film: *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*

WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 26: Empire's Discontents: Ireland

Film: *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*

Mar 28: Empire and Film ***ESSAY TWO DUE***

Read: Donal Ó Drisceoil, "Framing the Irish Revolution: Ken Loach's *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*," *Radical History Review* 104 (Spring 2009): 5-15.
Roy Foster, "The Red and the Green," *Dublin Review*, no. 24 (Autumn 2006): 43-51.

Stephen Howe, "The Wind That Shakes the Barley: Ken Loach and Irish History," www.opendemocracy.net/arts-Film/loach_3650.jsp

WEEK TWELVE

Apr 2: From Empire to Commonwealth

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 170-173

John Darwin, "A Third British Empire? The Dominion Idea in Imperial Politics?" *The Oxford History of the British Empire*, vol. IV: *The Twentieth Century* (Oxford: OUP, 1999), 64-87.

Apr 4: The End of Empire

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 173-179

Documents on the 'transfer of power' to India

WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 9: Decolonization

Read: Levine, *The British Empire*, 179-190; Chapter 11

Macmillan, "Winds of Change" speech (1960)

Apr 11: *No Class*

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 16: Decolonization and its Aftermath

Read: Stephen Howe, "Flakking the Mau Mau Catchers," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 39, 5 (2011): 695-697.

Mark Doyle “Mau Mauing the Flak Catchers in the London High Court,”
<http://britishscholar.org/publications/2012/11/02/mau-mauing-the-flak-catchers-in-the-london-high-court/>

Articles from the following:

David M. Anderson, “Mau Mau in the High Court and the ‘Lost’ British Empire Archives: Colonial Conspiracy or Bureaucratic Bungle?” *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 699-716.

Hugh Bennett, “Soldiers in the Court Room: The British Army’s Part in the Kenya Emergency under the Legal Spotlight,” *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 717-730.

Caroline Elkins, “Alchemy of Evidence: Mau Mau, the British Empire, and the High Court of Justice,” *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History?* 39, 5 (2011): 731-748.

Apr 18: Britain after Empire *****ESSAY THREE DUE*****

Read: Bhikhu Parekh, *The future of multi-ethnic Britain: report of the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain* (London: Profile Books, 2000). (excerpts)

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 23: Empire After Britain

Read: R. K. Narayan, “Lawley Road” (1956)

Apr 25: Conclusion

*****Final Exam: Thursday, May 2, 2013, 12-3pm*****
