

**HIS 208 01 TOPICS IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY I:
EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND EMPIRES
MWF: 11-11:50am, SOEB 226**

Professor: Dr. Jill Bender

Office: MHRA 2116

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:45-10:45am; 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.

Student Learning Objectives:

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

1. Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of modern Europe's imperial expansion.
 2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary sources representing different points of view.
 3. Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
 4. Identify 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 or 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. 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, please see me for suggestions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation and Attendance

To perform well in this course, you must attend all lectures and discussions, take notes, and thoroughly engage with the assigned readings. Attendance will be taken at the start of all classes. You may miss up to three classes without penalty (assuming there are no assignments due that particular day). For every unexcused absence beyond three, I will deduct three percentage points from your participation grade. Students who regularly arrive late or leave early without permission will be marked absent.

Discussions and Reading Quizzes (SLO 4)

Weekly reading assignments should be completed in preparation for all classes labeled “**DISCUSSION**” on the syllabus. Students must come to these classes prepared to participate—in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings. *Students must bring a copy of the assigned readings and their notes to class meetings—if a student neglects to do so, his or her participation grade will reflect the lack of preparation.* “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 Blackboard. 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 (SLO 2 and SLO 3)

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 9th** and the second will take place on **April 20th**. In addition, students will write one paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12pt font) **out of class**, which will be due on **April 1st**. 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/>. If you have further questions regarding this policy, please consult me.***

Exams (SLO 1 and SLO 3)

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 6th**; the final exam will be on **May 6th**. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams.

Grading

Grades will be based on three different aspects of student performance: (1) writing assignments (2) exams and (3) participation (including attendance and reading quizzes). The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

Writing Assignments	45% total
In-class writing assignment #1	15%

Out-of-class paper	15%
In-class writing assignment #2	15%
Exams	35% total
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes	20% total

Grading Scale

A+: 97-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 93-96	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

PART I: THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

WEEK ONE

Jan 12: Introduction

Jan 14: The First “Global” War

Jan 16: Britain’s “Swing to the East”

Reading: *No Reading*

WEEK TWO

Jan 19: *No Classes*

Jan 21: DISCUSSION: *The British in India*

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

Jan 23: The Industrial Revolution

WEEK THREE

Jan 26: Science, “Race,” and Empire

Jan 28: DISCUSSION: *Orientalism*

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

Jan 30: The French Revolution and its global repercussions

WEEK FOUR

Feb 2: The Haitian Revolution I

Feb 4: The Haitian Revolution II (**Guest Speaker, Professor David Geggus**)

Feb 6: DISCUSSION: *France and its eighteenth-century colonies*

Reading: “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)

PART II: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND NEW IMPERIALISM

WEEK FIVE

Feb 9: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

Feb 11: Age of Imperial Reform

Feb 13: Mid-century cultural transitions

Reading: *No reading*

WEEK SIX

Feb 16: Mid-century colonial crises

Feb 18: The modern nation state

Feb 20: DISCUSSION: *Belgium and its empire*

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

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 23: New Imperialism I

Feb 25: New Imperialism II

Feb 27: DISCUSSION: *New Imperialism*

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

WEEK EIGHT

Mar 2: Empire Comes Home

Mar 4: Review for Midterm Exam

Mar 6: ***MIDTERM EXAM***

Reading: *No Reading. Please note that March 6th is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdraw failing).*

PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

WEEK NINE

Mar 9: *No Classes*

Mar 11: *No Classes*

Mar 13: *No Classes*

WEEK TEN

Mar 16: The Great War

Mar 18: DISCUSSION: *World War I and the imperial perspective*

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

Mar 20: New Countries, New Colonies I

WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 23: New Countries, New Colonies II

Mar 25: DISCUSSION: *Interwar Nationalism*

Reading: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj* (excerpt)

Mar 27: The Second World War

WEEK TWELVE

Mar 30: DISCUSSION: *World War II and the imperial perspective*

Reading: Listen to African Troops during World War II at:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00sh1lh>
Isaac Fadoyebo, *A Stroke of Unbelievable Luck*, (excerpt)

Apr 1: Reordering the postwar world *****PAPER DUE*****

Apr 3: *No Classes*

PART IV: DECOLONIZATION

WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 6: Decolonization I

Apr 8: Decolonization II

Apr 10: DISCUSSION: *Decolonization and Violence*

Reading: Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (excerpt)

WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 13: FILM: *Amandla!*

Apr 15: FILM: *Amandla!*

Apr 17: DISCUSSION: *Amandla!* *****No reading quiz*****

Reading: Begin Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 20: *IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT*****

Apr 22: Legacies of Empire I

Apr 24: Legacies of Empire II

Reading: Continue Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

WEEK SIXTEEN

Apr 27: DISCUSSION: *The Colonial Impact*

Reading: Finish Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Apr 28: Conclusion

*****FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 6th, 8-11am*****
