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.

**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.uncc.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
In-class writing assignment #1 45% total 15%

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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-: 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 6\textsuperscript{th} is the last day to withdraw without incurring a WF grade (withdraw failing).*

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PART III: EMPIRES AND WORLD WARS

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WEEK NINE

Mar 9: *No Classes*
Mar 11: *No Classes*
Mar 13: *No Classes*

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WEEK TEN

Mar 16: The Great War
Mar 18: DISCUSSION: *World War I and the imperial perspective*


Mar 20: New Countries, New Colonies I

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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

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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***