HIS 314 01: The Modern British Empire, 1750 to the Present
T/TH 12:30-1:45pm, BRYN 206

Instructor: Jill Bender
Office: MHRA 2116
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:00pm; and by appointment
Email: jcbender@uncg.edu

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:
1. Identify the significance of major people, places, and events in the history of the modern British Empire
2. Analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Use evidence based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting a written argument.
4. Develop a scholarly bibliography.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The following books are available for purchase at the university bookstore:


All other reading material will be available on the course Canvas site or 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 and often group work. 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 (SLO 2 and SLO 3)
Students will be required to write four short papers over the course of the semester (due January 28th, February 18th, March 17th, and April 14th). These papers are designed to build your understanding of primary and secondary source analysis. Additional information on each paper topic will be provided in advance.

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, and should be uploaded to Canvas by 5pm on the due date. If you turn in your paper by 5pm 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 (SLO 1 and SLO 4)
There will be two exams in this course. Both exams will include an in-class and out-of-class portion. The mid-term exam will be on Thursday, March 3rd. The final exam will be on Friday, April 29th. Review sheets will be provided in advance of both exams. Unless a student can provide a properly documented excuse (preferably in advance), there will be no make-up exam for either the midterm or the final exam—mark your calendars now!

Grading
Grades will be based on three different aspects of student performance: (1) papers (2) exams and (3) participation. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Papers</th>
<th>50% total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Source Analysis #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Source Analysis #2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>35% total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Participation | 15%

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

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Jan 12: Introduction

Jan 14: The Empire Begins…
Read: Levine, The British Empire, Preface; Chapter 1
Ferguson, Empire, Chapter 1, pages 1-20

WEEK TWO
Jan 19: Crisis in the Atlantic Empire
   Read: L. Colley, Captives, “Revolutions,” 203-238.
   Recommended Reading: Levine, The British Empire, Chapter 3

Jan 21: After America: A Second British Empire?
   Read: No Reading Assignment

WEEK THREE

Jan 26: Humanitarianism, Evangelicalism, and Abolition
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, Chapter 2
      William Wilberforce, “The African Slave Trade” (1789) (excerpt)

Jan 28: The British in India
   ***PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS #1 DUE***
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, 61-73
      Mountstuart Elphinstone, “Indian Customs and Manners” (1840)
      T. Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education” (1835)

WEEK FOUR

Feb 2: The Settler Colonies
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, Chapter 4
      J. S. Mill, “On Colonies and Colonization” (1848)
      The Treaty of Waitangi (1840)

Feb 4: Informal Empire
   Read: John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, “The Imperialism of Free Trade,” The Economic History Review 6, 1 (1953)
   Listen to: Talking Empire: The Gallagher-Robinson Controversy, Episode one: Jack Gallagher, Ronald Robinson and ‘The Imperialism of Free Trade’
      https://soundcloud.com/university-of-exeter/talking-empire-1

WEEK FIVE

Feb 9: 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 11: Race and the British Empire


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**WEEK SIX**

Feb 16: The Empire Strikes Back?

Documents on the 1857 Indian Uprising

Feb 18: Britain and Africa  
***PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS #2 DUE***

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

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**WEEK SEVEN**

Feb 23: Representations of Empire I

*Read:* Getz and Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, 1-93

Feb 25: Representations of Empire II

*Read:* Getz and Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, 95-137

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**WEEK EIGHT**

Mar 1: Exam Review

Mar 3: Exam I

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**WEEK NINE**

Mar 8: *No Classes*

Mar 10: *No Classes*

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**WEEK TEN**
Mar 15: The South African War
   Read: Documents on the South African War

Mar 17: World War I
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, 166-170

   ***SECONDARY SOURCE
   ANALYSIS #1 DUE***

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WEEK ELEVEN

Mar 22: Guest Speaker

Mar 24: The Rise of Nationalism
   Film: The Wind That Shakes the Barley

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WEEK TWELVE

Mar 29: Empire’s Discontents: Ireland
   Stephen Howe, “The Wind That Shakes the Barley: Ken Loach and Irish History,” www.opendemocracy.net/arts-Film/loach_3650.jsp

Mar 31: From Empire to Commonwealth
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, 170-173

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WEEK THIRTEEN

Apr 5: The End of Empire
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, 173-179
   Documents on the ‘transfer of power’ to India

Apr 7: Decolonization
   Read: Levine, The British Empire, 179-190; Chapter 11
WEEK FOURTEEN

Apr 12: Decolonization and its Aftermath
Listen to: Mau Mau, Radiolab

Select Articles from the following:

Apr 14: Britain after Empire ***SECONDARY SOURCE ANALYSIS #2 DUE***

WEEK FIFTEEN

Apr 19: Empire After Britain

Apr 21: Conclusion

***Exam II: Friday, April 29, 2016, 3:30-6:30pm***