

Encountering Europe:  
Colonialism, Decolonization and European Empires  
Honors 216A – 02H  
Fall 2013

T, Th, 1:00-2:15 p.m.  
Cuneo Hall 117  
Office Hours: T, Th, 2:30-3:30pm  
or by appointment

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This course examines the history of modern Europe through the lens of colonialism and decolonization. We will begin the course by analyzing a variety of theories about European imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but the bulk of the course will concentrate on the experiences and practices of European colonialism. Topics will include the economic and political reasons for empire, the influence of empire on everyday life in Europe, and the impacts of empire on colonial subjects. In particular, we will examine how Europeans and colonial subjects constructed their identities under the imperial relationship and how these identities changed over time. We will also focus on the growing resistance to colonial rule in the twentieth century, paying close attention to the role of empire in World War I and World War II and the growth of nationalism within European colonies. Finally, we look at the process of decolonization after World War II, using Algeria as a case study, and then examine the continuing legacies of colonialism in today's diverse European societies. The course focuses primarily on British and French colonialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but we will look at the cases of Belgium and Germany too.

We will examine a wide variety of sources including works by present-day historians, memoirs and other documents from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will also watch two films. Each week will be devoted to a general topic, and we will devote most of class time to group discussion. I will provide background lectures as needed.

Texts:

The required books listed below are available at the Loyola University Bookstore. The Loyola Bookstore is located at 6435 N. Sheridan Road. The phone number is 773-508-7350. The four required books are also on reserve at Cudahy Library.

Nicholas B. Dirks, The Scandal of Empire: India and the Creation of Imperial Britain  
Adam Hochschild, King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa  
Norrie MacQueen, Colonialism  
Edward W. Said, Orientalism

In addition to the required books, there are several **required** readings that are available online through Sakai. These readings should be downloaded and printed by the student. They are marked in the syllabus with (S). To download the readings, the student must log on to Sakai.

From the course site, you click on to “course readings.” Then click on to the PDF file with the author’s name or title of the reading. I strongly recommend that you download and print these readings because they are the focus of the short essays and because I would like you to bring these readings to class.

Assignments:

\* All assigned reading is required and must be completed by the time the class meets on the dates indicated on the syllabus. Participation in class discussions is required and will constitute a significant part of your grade.

\* There will be ten weekly (or bi-weekly) three-page reaction papers. Students must write 4 of these reaction papers during the course of the semester. **All students are required to write reaction paper # 1 or # 2.** I do not accept late papers or papers sent via email. Papers must be turned in during class time. Questions for the reaction papers will be given out in class one week in advance. Through the process of writing several short papers during the course of the semester, students will hone particular writing skills that include: 1. Articulating a clear thesis in an introductory paragraph; 2. Selecting, quoting and analyzing passages from the reading that serve as evidence for making an argument; 3. And using correct punctuation and clear prose to present a coherent essay. Essays cannot be rewritten for a higher grade.

\* In addition, there will be a take-home final essay exam that asks the students to analyze the key issues raised by the readings in the class. The final essay exam will consist of two essay questions, and students will answer one of the questions (10-12 pages). The final essay exam will be due on 12 December 2013.

Course Evaluation and Grades

Final grades will be based on the quality of written work and class participation. Attendance is important and you will not do well in the course if you do not come to class.

Class Participation	25%
Four Reaction Papers	25%
Take-Home Final Essay Exam	50%

\*\* Cheating on the final essay exam or plagiarism on any writing assignment will result in a final grade of F for the course as well as a letter, detailing the event, to be placed in your permanent file in the Dean’s office. See last page of the syllabus for my working definition of plagiarism.

\*\*Cellphones and all electronic devices must be turned off during class sessions. **Laptop computers are NOT allowed in the classroom.**

Course Schedule:

This schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Week One

27 August      Introduction to course

- 29 August Imperialism, Colonialism, Empire – What’s the Difference?  
Readings:  
(S) Jürgen Osterhammel, , Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-22)  
(S) Trevor R Getz and Heather Streets-Salter, “Introduction” in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism, pp. 1-15.

### Week Two

- 3 September European Colonialism before the “New” Imperialism  
Readings:  
MacQueen, Colonialism, Prologue and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-22)  
(S) Getz and Streets-Salter, “Colonialism: Competition for Empire and the Rise of the Slave/Plantation Complex Legacy” in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism (chapter 4), pp. 77-98.  
(S) Getz and Streets-Salter, “Imperialism: The New Imperialism and the Scramble for Colonies” in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism (chapter 10), only pp. 211-222.  
Background lecture: Old vs. New Imperialisms – an overview

- 5 September Classic Theories of the New Imperialism  
Readings:  
MacQueen, Colonialism, Chapter 2 (pp. 22-50)  
(S) Excerpts from J.A. Hobson, V. I. Lenin, Joseph A. Schumpeter, and Rudyard Kipling, in Alice Conklin, and Ian Fletcher, eds., European Imperialism, 1830-1930 (pp. 14-20, 36-51 and 58-59)  
**REACTION PAPER # 1 DUE**

### Week Three

- 10 September A Cultural Theory of European Imperialism: Orientalism  
Readings:  
Edward Said, Orientalism, Introduction, Chapter 1 (pp. 31-73), Chapter 2 (pp. 113-123 and pp. 166-197), and chapter 3 (pp. 284-328).

- 12 September Technology and Empire: More theories of Empire  
Readings:  
(S) Daniel R. Headrick, “The Tools of Imperialism: Technology and the Expansion of Europe’s Colonial Empires in the Nineteenth Century,” Journal of Modern History, vol. 52, no. 2 (June, 1979), pp. 231-263.  
**REACTION PAPER # 2 DUE**

### Week Four

- 17 September India and the Making of the British Empire  
Readings:

Nicholas Dirks, The Scandal of Empire, prologue, chapters 1 and 2.  
Background lecture on the British in India, 1750-1850

- 19 September India and the Making of the British Empire  
Readings:  
Nicholas Dirks, The Scandal of Empire, chapter 3  
**REACTION PAPER # 3 DUE**

Week Five

- 24 September The Legacies of Scandal: British Empire into the Nineteenth Century  
Readings:  
Nicholas Dirks, The Scandal of Empire, Chapters 4 and 5, 8 and 9.

- 26 September The Scramble for Africa and the era of High Imperialism  
(S) Juhani Koponen, "The Partition of Africa: A Scramble for a Mirage?" Nordic Journal of African Studies, vol. 2, no. 1(1993), pp. 117-135.  
(S) Getz and Streets-Salter, "Colonialism: Colonial Subjects and the Pacification of Colonies in the Era of the New Imperialism" in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism (chapter 11), pp.230-247.  
Background Lecture on Europe in the late nineteenth century

Week Six

- 1 October Colonial Violence: The Case of the Belgian Congo  
Readings:  
Adam Hochschild, King Leopold's Ghost, pp. 1-5, 61-87, 115-181
- 3 October Colonial Violence: The Case of the Belgian Congo  
Readings:  
Adam Hochschild, King Leopold's Ghost, pp. 209-274 and 292-306  
**REACTION PAPER # 4 DUE**

Week Seven

- 8 October No Class / Mid-Semester Break
- 10 October Civilizing Missions abroad and at home  
Reading:  
(S) Alice Conklin, A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895-1930, introduction and Chapters 1 and 3.

Week Eight

- 15 October Civilizing Missions abroad and at home

Readings:

- (S) Susan Thorne, “‘The Conversion of Englishmen and the Conversion of the World Inseparable’: Missionary Imperialism and the Language of Class in Early Industrial Britain,” in Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, ed., Tensions of Empire: Colonial Encounters in a Bourgeois World (Chapter 6), pp. 238-263.
- (S) Anne McClintock, “Soft-Soaping Empire,” from Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context, (Chapter 5), pp. 207-232.

17 October Mapping Gender and Sexuality onto Race, Nation and Empire

Readings:

- (S) Catherine Hall, “Of Gender and Empire: Reflections on the Nineteenth Century,” in Phillippa Levine, ed., Gender and Empire, pp. 46-77.

**REACTION PAPER # 5 DUE**

Week Nine

22 October World War I: Challenges to European Empire

Readings:

- (S) Getz and Streets-Salter, “Empire: Imperial World Wars and the Slow March toward Decolonization” in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism (chapter 14), only pp. 285-295.
- (S) Tyler Stovall, “The Color line behind the Lines: Racial Violence in France during the Great War,” American Historical Review, vol. 103, no. 3 (June 1998), pp. 773-769.
- (S) Michael Adas, “The Great War and the Afro-Asian Assault on the Civilizing Mission Ideology,” Journal of World History, vol. 15, no. 1 (March 2004), pp. 31-63.

24 October Legacies of World War: Interwar European Empire

Readings:

MacQueen, Colonialism, Chapter 3 (pp. 51-70)

- (S) Priya Satia, “The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control in Iraq and the British Idea of Arabia,” American Historical Review, vol. 111, no. 1 (February 2006), pp. 16-51.

**REACTION PAPER # 6 DUE**

**You must write two reaction papers by 24 October.**

Week Ten

29 October Rethinking World War II and the Holocaust as Colonial Events

Reading:

- (S) Getz and Streets-Salter, “Empire: Imperial World Wars and the Slow March toward Decolonization” in Modern Imperialism and Colonialism (chapter 14), only pp. 296-305.
- (S) Isabel V. Hull, “Military Culture and the Production of ‘Final Solutions’ in the Colonies: The Example of Wilhelminian Germany,” in Robert Gellately

and Ben Kiernan, eds., The Specter of Genocide: Mass Murder in Historical Perspective, ed., pp. 141-62.

- (S) Jürgen Zimmer, “The Birth of the *Ostland* out of the Spirit of Colonialism: A Postcolonial Perspective on the Nazi Policy of Conquest and Extermination.” Patterns of Prejudice, vol. 39, no. 2 (2005), pp. 197-219.

**REACTION PAPER # 7**

- 31 October The End of Empire: Comparing French and British Decolonization  
Readings:  
MacQueen, Colonialism, Chapter 6 (only pp. 121-139)  
(S) Tony Smith, “A Comparative Study of French and British Decolonization,” Comparative Studies in Society and History, vo. 20, no. 1 (January, 1978), pp. 70-102.

Week Eleven

- 5 November The End of Empire: Two Perspectives from the Colonized World  
Reading:  
(S) Franz Fanon, “On Violence,” The Wretched of the Earth, pp. 35-106.  
(S) M. K. Gandhi, Indian Home Rule, pp. 30-45, 66-74, 79-99.

**REACTION PAPER # 8**

- 7 November Settler Decolonization: The Case of the Algerian War for Independence  
Reading:  
(S) Martin Thomas, “Algeria’s Violent Struggle for Independence,” in Martin Thomas, et al., eds., Crises of Empire, Chapter 9 (pp. 228-252)  
Film: Gillo Pontecorvo, La battaglia di Algeri (Battle of Algiers) (1966)

Week Twelve

- 12 November Settler Decolonization: The Case of the Algerian War for Independence  
Readings:  
(S) Mouloud Feraoun, Journal 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War, pp. ix-xiii, xl-iv, 84-87, 152-153, 248-252, 294-298, 309-315.  
Film: Gillo Pontecorvo, La battaglia di Algeri (Battle of Algiers) (1966)

- 14 November Legacies of the Algerian War: The Question of Torture  
Reading:  
(S) Joshua Cole, “Intimate Acts and Unspeakable Relations: Remembering Torture and the War for Algerian Independence,” in Alec G. Hargreaves, ed., Memory, Empire, and Postcolonialism: Legacies of French Colonialism, pp. 125-141.

**REACTION PAPER # 9**

### Week Thirteen

- 19 November The Empire Comes Home: Postcolonial Great Britain  
Reading:  
(S) Chris Waters, "Dark Strangers in our Midst': The Discourse of Race Relations, 1947-1963" Journal of British Studies, Vol. 36, no. 2 (April 1997), pp. 207-238.  
Film: East is East (1999)
- 21 November The Empire Comes Home: Postcolonial Great Britain  
Reading:  
(S) Jane Kramer, "The Uganda Asians," in Unsettling Europe, first half of essay  
Film: East is East (1999)

### Week Fourteen

- 26 November The Empire Comes Home: Postcolonial Great Britain  
Readings:  
(S) Jane Kramer, "The Uganda Asians," in Unsettling Europe, finish essay  
**REACTION PAPER # 10 DUE**
- 28 November No Class / Thanksgiving Break

### Week Fifteen

- 3 December Dealing with Difference in postcolonial Europe  
Reading:  
MacQueen, Colonialism, Chapter 7 (pp. 156-185)  
(S) Ian Buruma, "Final Cut: After a filmmaker's murder, the Dutch creed of tolerance has come under siege," The New Yorker, January 3, 2005.
- 5 December Summing Up and Concluding Thoughts  
Reading:  
The international section of the New York Times or Washington Post for this class, and consider the influence of European imperialism on current events. Both newspapers are available online at <[www.nyt.com](http://www.nyt.com)> and <[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)>.
- 12 December Take-Home Final Essay Exam Due at 1:00p.m. in my mailbox**

### A Note on Plagiarism

I adopt the definition of plagiarism found in Booth:

You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else's words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his [or her] exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow.<sup>1</sup>

This means, among other things, that materials cut and pasted from the web are plagiarized unless they are properly quoted and cited. It also means that papers written by someone else but handed in by you under your name are plagiarized. Even if you plagiarize only a sentence or two you will receive a grade of F for THE COURSE.

To avoid plagiarism, take notes carefully, putting into quotation marks all real quotes and summarizing other things in your own words. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me during my office hours.

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<sup>1</sup>Wayne Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, The Craft of Research (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1995), p. 167.