

## SYLLABUS

History 105: The British Empire and Its Enemies

Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2005

Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 206 Buckman; Office Hours: M W F 11:45-12:45 (and by appointment)

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to some of the main historical developments involving the British Empire from the Elizabethan age to the present. During this period Britain gained, and lost, an empire unrivalled in human history. It is the objective of this course to understand some of the main reasons for British imperial expansion in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the retreat from empire in the twentieth century. The impact of empire on British political, social and economic life will be considered, as will be the influence of British culture and institutions on the colonies. Imperial ideas, the growth of racial attitudes, and other intellectual issues and social problems associated with the empire will also be addressed. The many enemies that empire created, both at home and in the colonies, will also be a major theme of this course. Their role in ending the empire, and in creating post-colonial societies in the aftermath of empire, will also be explored.

This course is linked to English 215, "The Imperial Idea in British Literature: Promoters, Doubters, and Enemies," which is being offered by Professor Mike Leslie. There will be six or seven common meetings for the students enrolled in these two courses. These meetings will occur outside of the normal class times and will take place approximately every other week during the semester. Some of these meetings will consist of guest lectures by experts on British imperialism; some will be viewings of famous films about the empire; and some will involve student presentations on additional readings assigned both to this course and to English 215. In addition, each student will write a research essay on a topic that is appropriate for both courses. This essay must be approved in advance by Professor Leslie and me; it will also be graded by both of us and count toward the final grade in both of our courses.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a seminar-style course with substantial reading. Students will be expected to attend class regularly, to pay close attention to lecture materials, and to be prepared to discuss all assigned readings in an informed and intelligent manner. Those who find it difficult to participate in class discussions may also periodically submit summaries of the assigned readings, which, if thoroughly done, will help raise class participation grades. There will be a mid-term and a final examination, both of which will be largely essay. A research paper (8-12 pages long, using a minimum of 4 sources) is required; a first draft is due in early November, and the final draft is due at the end of the semester. Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation - 20%; mid-term examination - 20%; research paper (first draft) - 10%; research paper (final draft) - 25%; final examination - 25%. All assignments must be handed in by class time on the date specified. All late papers will be automatically reduced by one letter grade. There are no exceptions to this rule.

### BOOKS TO PURCHASE

R. F. Foster, Modern Ireland 1600-1972  
Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power  
David Brion Davis, Slavery and Human Progress  
Lata Mani, Contentious Traditions  
Rudyard Kipling, Two Tales  
Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History  
Mohandas Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, ed. A. Parel  
E. M. Forster, A Passage to India  
Paidraig O'Malley, Uncivil Wars

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week I Introduction

August 24	Introduction
August 26	Wales

### Week II Celtic Fringe

August 29	Scotland
August 31	Irish Plantations (Foster, Chp. 3)
Sept. 2	Cromwell's Ireland (Foster, Chps. 6-7)

### Week III Overseas Expansion

Sept. 5	Labor Day recess
Sept. 7	Expansion of Europe
Sept. 9	British in North America and India [Begin reading Mintz]

### Week IV Mercantilism and Slavery

Sept. 12	Mercantilism
Sept. 14	Slavery (Mintz, Chps. 1-2)
Sept. 16	Slavery (Mintz, Chps. 3-4)

### Week V Ireland: Revolution and Reform

Sept. 19	18 <sup>th</sup> Century Revolution (I) (Foster, Chp. 11)
Sept. 21	18 <sup>th</sup> Century Revolution (II) (Foster, Chp. 12)
Sept. 23	O'Connell (Foster, Chp. 13)

### Week VI Humanitarianism I: Abolition of Slavery

Sept. 26	Abolitionists (Davis, pp. 107-153)
Sept. 28	Abolitionists (Davis, pp. 154-191)
Sept. 30	Abolitionists (Davis, pp. 192-226)

### Week VII Humanitarianism II: Abolition of Sati

October 3	Missionaries and Reformers in India
October 5	Sati (Mani, Chp. 1)
October 7	Sati (Mani, Chps. 4-5)

### Week VIII Exam and Africa

October 10	<b>Midterm examination</b>
October 12	Africa
October 14	Individual work on research proposals

### Week IX Kipling's India

October 17	Fall Recess
October 19	19 <sup>th</sup> Century British Raj
October 21	Kipling and India (Kipling, all)

RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE AT 5:00 OCTOBER 21

### Week X Late Victorian Imperialism

October 24	Popular Enthusiasm for Empire
October 26	Feminists and Empire (Burton, Chps. 1-2)
October 28	Feminists (Burton, Chps. 3, 5)

Week XI New Imperialism and Its Critics

- October 31 The New Imperialism
- November 2 Hobson (J. A. Hobson, Imperialism [Part I, Chps. 1-3, available on-line at:  
<http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Hobson/hbsnlmp.html>]
- November 4 Hobson (Part I, Chps. 4-6, available on-line)

Week XII Ireland: Breaking the Imperial Connection

- November 7 Parnell and Yeats (Foster, Chp. 17)
- November 9 Yeats and Cultural Nationalism (Foster, Chp. 18)
- November 11 Sinn Fein and Revolution (Foster, 19-20)

RESEARCH PAPERS (FIRST DRAFT) DUE AT 5:00 NOVEMBER 12

Week XIII Gandhi and Indian Nationalism

- November 14 Indian Nationalism
- November 16 Gandhi (Gandhi, pp. 5-65)
- November 18 Gandhi (Gandhi, pp. 66-125, 164-70)

Week XIV Forster and Orwell

- November 21 Forster (all) and Orwell ("Shooting an Elephant" and other selections, on reserve)
- Nov. 23, 25 Thanksgiving Recess

Week XV Postcolonial Predicaments

- November 28 Postcolonial Britain (I)
- November 30 Postcolonial Britain (II)
- December 2 Discussion of movie My Beautiful Laundrette

Week XVI Northern Ireland

- December 5 Northern Ireland (O'Malley, Intro., Chps. 2, 5-6)
- December 7 Northern Ireland (O'Malley, Chps. 7-8)