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. Many of these themes have been explored in film and this course will examine key examples of how the empire has been portrayed in movies.

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 several common meetings outside the normal class times for the students enrolled in these two courses. One of these meetings will involve a guest expert on British imperialism; for others we will view famous films about the empire. 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 three analytical essays, as well as the research essay already mentioned. Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation - 25%; first essay - 10%; second and third essays – 20% each; research essay - 25%. All assignments must be handed in by class time on the date specified. All late papers will be penalized. There are no exceptions to this rule.

There will also be required film viewings during the course of the semester. These will be held on Thursday evenings. Attendance is required for all screenings.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*
Lata Mani, *Contentious Traditions*
Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince*
COURSE OUTLINE

Week I Introduction
August 24 Introduction
August 26 Expansion of Europe

Week II Slavery and Empire
August 29 North America
August 31 Sugar and Slavery I (Mintz, Chps. 1-2)
Sept. 2 Sugar and Slavery II (Mintz, Chp. 3)

Week III Slavery and Britain
Sept. 5 Labor Day recess
Sept. 7 First essay due: discussion
Sept. 9 Blacks in Britain I (Fryer, Chps. 1-3) [available on Moodle]

Week IV Slavery and Britain (cont.)
Sept. 12 Blacks in Britain II (Fryer, Chps. 4-5)
Sept. 14 Slavery and the Law (Fryer, Chp. 6)
Sept. 16 Emergence of Racism (Fryer, pp. 133-65)

MOVIE: Amazing Grace

Week V Anglo-Indian Empire
Sept. 19 India after the Mughals
Sept. 21 Early British Raj
Sept. 23 Orientalists, Missionaries and Anglicists

Week VI Humanitarianism I: Abolition of Sati
Sept. 26 Official Tolerance (Mani, Chp. 1)
Sept. 28 Missionary Outrage (Mani, Chp. 4)
Sept. 30 Eyewitness Accounts (Mani, Chp. 5)

Week VII Humanitarianism II: Abolition of Slavery
October 3 Abolition and British National Identity
October 5 Mobilizing the Public I (Prince, all)
October 7 Mobilizing the Public II (R. Wedderburn, Horrors of Slavery, pp. 1-40)

MOVIE: Mangal Pandey: The Rising

Week VIII Analyzing Humanitarianism
October 10 Wedderburn discussion continued (Horrors of Slavery, pp. 43-61, 81-88, 113-17)
October 14 Group project: defining second essay topics (in class)

Week IX Nineteenth-Century South Africa
October 17 Fall Recess
October 29 Early colonial South Africa
October 21 Late colonial South Africa (James Chapman, “Men of Harlech: Zulu (1964)” [available on Moodle])

MOVIE: Zulu
Week X Nineteenth-Century India
October 24  Second essay due: discussion
October 26  The Jewel in the Crown
October 28  Kipling’s India (Kipling, “The Man Who Would Be King” and “Without Benefit of Clergy” found at http://www.readbookonline.net/stories/Kipling/68/)

Week XI Late Victorian Enthusiasm for Empire
October 31  Popular Imperialism
November 4  Robert Rabel, “The Imitation of Alexander the Great in Afghanistan” [on Moodle]

MOVIE: The Man Who Would Be King

Week XII New Imperialism and Hobson’s Critique
November 7  The New Imperialism
November 11  James Kirschke, “Say Who Made Her So: Breaker Morant and British Empire,” [available on Moodle]

MOVIE: Breaker Morant

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 Orwell’s Critique of Empire
November 21  George Orwell (“Shooting an Elephant” and Road to Wigan Pier [selection], both available on Moodle )
Nov. 23, 25  Thanksgiving Recess

Week XV Postcolonial Predicaments
November 28  Postcolonial Britain (I)
November 30  Postcolonial Britain (II)
December 2  Lucia Krämer, “‘Neither united nor separated’,” in M. Meyer, Word & Image in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures [available on Moodle]

MOVIE: Lagaan

Week XVI Review
December 5  Group project: defining third essay topics
December 7  Review

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME DECEMBER 5
THIRD ESSAY DUE BY END OF FINAL EXAM PERIOD