

## SYLLABUS

History 105: The British Empire and Its Enemies

Rhodes College, Fall Semester 2009

Professor Lynn Zastoupil

Office: 206 Buckman; Office Hours: M W 2:00-3:30 (and by appointment)

Telephone: X3654

### 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 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 automatically reduced by one letter grade. There are no exceptions to this rule.

### BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power

Peter Fryer, Staying Power

Lata Mani, Contentious Traditions

Mary Prince, The History of Mary Prince

Rudyard Kipling, Two Tales

Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History

Mohandas Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, ed. A. Parel

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week I Introduction

August 26 Introduction  
August 28 Expansion of Europe

### Week II Slavery and Empire

August 31 North America  
Sept. 2 Sugar and Slavery I (Mintz, Chps. 1-2)  
Sept. 4 Sugar and Slavery II (Mintz, Chp. 3)

### Week III Slavery and Britain

Sept. 7 Labor Day recess  
Sept. 9 **First essay due: discussion**  
Sept. 11 Blacks in Britain I (Fryer, Chps. 1-3)

### Week IV Slavery and Britain (cont.)

Sept. 14 Blacks in Britain II (Fryer, Chps. 4-5)  
Sept. 16 Slavery and the Law (Fryer, Chp. 6)  
Sept. 18 Emergence of Racism (Fryer, pp. 133-65)

### Week V Anglo-Indian Empire

Sept. 21 India after the Mughals  
Sept. 23 Early British Raj  
Sept. 25 Orientalists, Missionaries and Anglicists

### **MOVIE NIGHT: Mangal Pandey: The Rising**

### Week VI Humanitarianism I: Abolition of Sati

Sept. 28 Official Tolerance (Mani, Chp. 1)  
Sept. 30 Missionary Outrage (Mani, Chp. 4)  
October 2 Eyewitness Accounts (Mani, Chp. 5)

### Week VII Humanitarianism II: Abolition of Slavery

October 5 Abolition and British National Identity  
October 7 Mobilizing the Public I (Prince, all)  
October 9 Mobilizing the Public II (R. Wedderburn, Horrors of Slavery, pp. 1-40)  
**NB:** this is available in my public folder on the academic volume

### Week VIII Analyzing Humanitarianism

October 12 Wedderburn discussion continued (Horrors of Slavery, pp. 43-61, 81-88, 113-17)  
October 14 **Group project: defining second essay topics (in class)**  
October 16 Individual work on research proposals

### Week IX Nineteenth-Century South Africa

October 19 Fall Recess  
October 21 Early colonial South Africa  
October 23 Late colonial South Africa

### **MOVIE NIGHT: Zulu**

### Week X Nineteenth-Century India

October 26 **Second essay due: discussion**  
October 28 The Jewel in the Crown  
October 30 Kipling's India (Kipling, all)

Week XI Late Victorian Enthusiasm for Empire

- November 2 Popular Imperialism
- November 4 Feminists and Empire I (Burton, Chps. 1-2)
- November 6 Feminists and Empire II (Burton, Chps. 3)

Week XII New Imperialism and Hobson's Critique

- November 9 The New Imperialism
- November 11 Hobson (J. A. Hobson, Imperialism [Part I, Chps. 1-3, available on-line at: <http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Hobson/hbsnlmp.html>])
- November 13 Hobson (Part I, Chps. 4-6, available on-line)

**MOVIE NIGHT: Breaker Morant**

Week XIII Gandhi and Indian Nationalism

- November 16 Indian Nationalism
- November 18 Gandhi (Gandhi, pp. 5-65)
- November 20 Gandhi (Gandhi, pp. 66-125, 164-70)

Week XIV Orwell's Critique of Empire

- November 23 George Orwell ("Shooting an Elephant" and other selections, on reserve)
- Nov. 25, 27 Thanksgiving Recess

Week XV Postcolonial Predicaments

- November 30 Postcolonial Britain (I)
- December 2 Postcolonial Britain (II)
- December 4 Discussion of Movie My Beautiful Laundrette

Week XVI Review

- December 7 **Group project: defining third essay topics**
- December 9 Review

**RESEARCH ESSAY DUE AT CLASS TIME DECEMBER 7**

**THIRD ESSAY DUE BY END OF FINAL EXAM PERIOD**