

HIST 3381.01 British Empire and Commonwealth
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Location: AB IV 303
Spring 2018

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 11 a.m.-12 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines British empire-building and colonial rule in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia from the eighteenth century until the 1960s. We will discuss the encounters between the indigenous peoples and the agents of imperial power, the diverse mechanisms of colonial rule, and British conceptualizations of their role as overseas imperialists. We will also probe the ways that the British acquired, organized, and interpreted information about people and places around the globe. How should we properly contextualize the impact and importance of colonial knowledge vis-à-vis other forms of colonial power such as violence and economic exploitation? To what extent did the British have to negotiate their power with local elites? Finally, we will consider the forces that led to the decline of the British empire in the twentieth century.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are:

- To gain knowledge on British empire-building and colonial rule in Africa, the Middle East and Asia from the 1700s to the 1960s;
- To identify and assess the major shifts in the historiography of the British empire;
- To develop stronger critical thinking and analytical skills as historians by engaging a variety of secondary and primary sources;
- To learn to express ideas more clearly and confidently through classroom discussions, group exercises, and written assignments.

WRITING ENHANCED COURSE

This is a “W” course, which means that at least 50 per cent of your course grade will derive from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives. Writing in this course is one of the tools your instructor will use to help you learn course material. Some writing activities will require you to draft and revise your work, with or without instructor feedback. Others may not receive a grade, but are designed to assist you in critical reflection of the course material. You should approach writing in this course as a tool to use as part of your learning as well as a tool your instructor will use to assess your level of learning.

COURSE TEXT

The readings for this course includes three that can be purchased either at the university bookstore or online through websites such as www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. A copy of these books will be placed on reserve at Newton Gresham Library.

The books are listed below:

- David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001)
- Lowell Satrie, *Chocolate on Trial: Slavery, Politics, and the Ethics of Business* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005)
NOTE: Available as an e-book at our university library
- Priya Satia, *Spies in Arabia: The Great War and the cultural foundations of Britain's covert empire in the Middle East* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)

IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING CLASS READINGS

In addition to these three books, readings such as primary sources will be posted on Blackboard and distributed in class. Students are required to bring these materials to class and be prepared to discuss them. Failure to prepare for classroom discussions will negatively affect your participation grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Primary Source Analysis Essay (15% of the final grade)

During the semester, students will complete a primary source exercise. Detailed guidelines and a rubric will be posted on Blackboard and explained in class.

2. Response Paper (15% of the final grade)

Students will be expected to write response paper on David Cannadine's book *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire*. Detailed guidelines and a rubric for the response paper will be posted on Blackboard and explained in class.

3. Exams (40%)

There will be two exams during the semester, one mid-term and one final exam. The exam questions will be based on the material covered in class. You will not be allowed to consult your notes or textbook during the exam. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.

4. Reading Worksheets (20%)

Throughout the semester, students will complete two reading worksheets, one on Lowell Satrie's book *Chocolate on Trial: slavery, politics, and the ethics of business* and the other on Priya

Satia's *Spies in Arabia: The Great War and the cultural foundations of Britain's covert empire in the Middle East*. Each worksheet is worth 10% of the final grade.

5. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Attendance is mandatory. Class meetings will include in-class activities. Hence, your consistent attendance is crucial to your success. To that end, students are expected to attend every class, be prompt in arriving, come prepared, and be engaged in the lecture, classroom discussions, and in-class activities. If a student must miss a class, he/she must inform the instructor as far in advance as possible of the absence and obtain information about the work you must do to keep up in class. Classroom participation is worth 10% of the final grade.

My grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower.

TECHNOLOGY ETIQUETTE

Laptops should be used for class-related work only. Emailing, updating Facebook profiles or random Internet surfing during class will not be tolerated. Cell phones should be turned off when you arrive in class. Texting during class is strictly prohibited. No recording devices are allowed. Failure to abide by these rules will negatively affect your participation grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating, will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information of the university policies, please see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact the Services for Students with disabilities (SSD) Office located in the Lee Drain Annex (next to Farrington) telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786 to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by SSD, the student must schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation form and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the SSD.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination

or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

COURSE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Week 1 (January 17-19): Introduction to the Course

Week 2 (January 22-26): The Company-State in India, 1600-1820

Week 3 (January 29-February 2): Liberal Imperialism and the “Second British Empire”

Week 4 (February 5-9): The Making of the British Raj

Week 5 (February 12-14): Science, Technology, and Empire

Week 6 (February 19-23): Empire and its Discontents

***Rough draft of the Primary Source Analysis Essay due on Monday, February 19
Meetings with the instructor***

Week 7 (February 26-March 2): The Scramble for Africa and the New Imperialism

Final draft of the Primary Source Analysis due on Friday, March 2nd

Week 8 (March 5-9)

***Review for the mid-term exam on March 7th
Mid-term exam on Friday, March 9th***

Week 9 (March 12-16): Spring break, no classes

Week 10 (March 19-23): The Empire at Home

Reading worksheet on Lowell Sastre's *Chocolate on Trial: slavery, politics, and the ethics of business* due on Friday, due Friday, March 23rd

Week 11 (March 26-30): Empire and British National Identity

Week 12 (April 2-6): The British and the Making of the Modern Middle East (Part I)

Reading worksheet on Priya Satia's *Spies in Arabia* due on Friday, due Friday, April 6th

Week 13 (April 9-13): The British and the Making of the Modern Middle East (Part II)

Begin reading David Cannadine's *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire*

Week 14 (April 16-20): The Crisis of Empire in the Indian Subcontinent, 1939-1948

Week 15 (April 23-27): Decolonization in the Middle East and Africa

Week 16 (April 30-May 4): Legacies of Empire

Response paper due on Friday, May 4th

Review for the final examination on Friday, May 4th

*****Final exam: May 7, 2017 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*****