

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVENSON POINT
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HISTORY 362: BRITISH EMPIRE
DR. NANCY LOPATIN-LUMMIS

Spring 2021

455 CCC

Office Hours: by appointment on Zoom

nlopatin@uwsp.edu

Description: This course introduces students to the relationship between the United Kingdom and areas of the world that it colonized, Anglicized and absorbed into its political, economic and cultural orbit. It begins in the 16th century, but focuses the majority of time on the 19th-20th centuries, when colonization post industrial revolution changed the focus and intent on creating such global ties. The course does not (cannot) look at the entire history of the British Empire, nor its decline. By design, I have chosen not to include colonial North America (the Thirteen Colonies and Canada) and Ireland. Both are areas that are far too complex to reduce to a day or two in this course and there are existing courses throughout the Department of History and International Studies' curriculum to critically exam these topics.

Course objective: To critically examine the relationship between Great Britain and the areas of the world it colonialized, Anglicised and absorbed into its political, economic and cultural influence and the reaction of those people to imposed control.

Learning Outcomes for the class:

- Identify and describe major events and historical trends in the rise of the British Empire.
- Examine how the British government adapted to changing economic concerns and political leadership in territories that it considered to be part of its Empire.
- Identify key differences which existed in the lives of colonial subjects and subjects living in the U.K.
- Identify and describe the events and campaigns that led to collapse of the British Empire.

Course readings:

At text rental: Philippa Levine, *The British Empire. Sunrise to Sunset*, Pearson Longman, 2007

At bookstore for purchase (or digitally from any vendor):

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

And documents as posted on Canvas

Course requirements:

- Midterm and Final Exams: each worth 15% for **30%**
- Student discussions: There will be posted questions on Canvas for written responses. But as we meet face to face, I will pose questions on the readings in the classroom for discussion. (We are in a room with microphones in the ceiling, so recording discussions and Zooming will be possible, if needed.) **15%**
- Film Summary: There are several films for you to watch as part of your required work. This is worth **25%** of your overall grade. I will give you more details as the semester progresses, but you will be required to watch all the films for discussion purposes.
- Literature Analysis: There are two novels for you to read. Each has an assigned essay topic linked to it. Please look on Canvas for the Dropbox Deadlines. Again, there is a rubric attached for grading purposes. These are worth 15% each or **30%** of your overall grade.

Late Work:

The Canvas Dropbox will close at the time indicated on the Syllabus and Assignment. If you have an emergency or some valid reason for not meeting the deadline, contact me asap. I will assess on an individual basis accepting late work, but there will be a reduction in grade - depending upon how late the assignment is. Again, this is up to my discretion, so acceptance of late work is not a guarantee.

A= 93 and higher

A-=90-92.9

B+=88-89.9

B=83-87.9

B-=80-82.9

C+=78-79.9

C=73-77.9

C-=70-72.9

D+=68-69.9

D=60-67.9

F= Below 59.9

Academic Integrity:

This course follows university practice concerning academic misconduct and plagiarism. This means that all work you submit is your work and your work alone. Everything downloaded into D2L will automatically be entered into Turnitin.com, an on-line service that evaluates everything ever posted on the World Wide Web for similarities. I routinely check print sources when evaluating both drafts of your paper. In addition, I routinely talk with other faculty about the topics proposed in this class to determine whether or not a student is trying to research one paper for two history classes. This is NOT allowed. The consequences for misrepresenting your work, failing to properly cite sources in your paper, and other breaches of ethics will be taken very seriously in this methods class. For the university policies on these issues, and a general understanding of academic policies at UWSP and for this course, please refer to <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>.

Course calendar:

Date	Topic
Week 1: Jan. 25-27	Introduction and Creation of the Empire Levine, chapter 1
Week 2: Feb. 1-3	Nation or Empire? Parsons, p. 231-40; Burton, p. 81-5
Week 3: Feb. 8-10	Caribbean and the Slave Trade Levine, chapters 2 & 3; Colley, p. 350-60; Burton p. 45-54 <i>Amazing Grace</i>
Week 4: Feb. 15-17	Oceania Levine, chapter 4 <i>The Bounty</i> <i>The Incredible Journey of Mary Bryant</i>
Week 5: Feb. 22-24	The British East India Company Levine, chapter 5
Week 6: March 1-3	China and the Opening of Africa Levine, chapter 6; Burton, p. 204-8 & 220-222
Week 7: March 8-10	Africa: "Cape to Cairo" Burton, p. 238-42 <i>Making a Fortune</i> <i>Four Feathers</i>
Week 8: March 15-17	Midterm Review and Exam (to be determined if on=line or in class)
March 22-24	SPRING BREAK (assuming we still have one)
Week 9: March 29-31	The Anxiety of Imperial Rule (The British Experience) Levine, chapter 7; Burton p. 131-35
Week 10: April 5-7	The Anxiety of Being Ruled (Everyone Else's Experience) Levine, chapter 8; Burton p. 253-55 <i>Victoria and Abdul</i>
Week 11: April 12-14	Sex and Sexism in the British Empire Levine, chapter 9; Burton, p. 153-6

Week 12: April 19-21 Changing Approaches to Rule, War and New Territory
Burton, p. 285-92

Week 13: April 26-28 Independence Campaigns
Levine, chapter 10; Burton, p. 189-194; Parsons, p. 127-42
The Viceroy's House

Week 14: May 3-5 Decolonization and Impacts on Great Britain
Levine, chapter 11
Oranges and Sunshine

Week 15: May 10-12 Legacies of Empire
Parsons, p. 224-30
The Forgotten Story

Week 16: May 17 **Final Exam 12:30-2:30**