History 349. The British Empire / Writing Focus  
Spring 2015  
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Lectures: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 in Holmes 243

Office Hours: TBA

History 349 traces the origins, growth and working of the modern British Empire. We focus on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although we start with seventeenth-century colonialism in Ireland and North America, and end with consideration of imperial legacies after 1945.

We will examine British attitudes and policies—and the responses to those—in India, Ireland, Scotland, Egypt, Southern and West Africa, North America, New Zealand and Australia, and the Caribbean. What were the continuities and discontinuities, similarities and differences across time and region? We consider specific historical issues, such as the relationships between imperialism and capitalism, development of white-settler societies and cultures, relations among social classes and racial groups, colonial rebellions and nationalisms, the governing of overseas territories, and the impact of imperialism on indigenous, or local, and domestic British culture, politics, and society.

Students are encouraged to enjoy, read, study, analyze, and write about a variety of historical sources, both secondary and primary ones. Among those sources will be speeches, government reports, poems, and a novel.

Course materials, such as graded student essays and lecture handouts, will be distributed during lecture and then available to be picked up in the “History 349/W” box outside of Sakamaki Hall B410. Please check the box if you miss lecture. Thank you.

As a “Writing Focus” course, please expect to complete 20 to 25 pages of writing this term. The relevant assignments vary – blue book paragraphs, short essays, one exam – and students are strongly encouraged to write various drafts. We will spend some time discussing writing itself; that is, how to craft the infamous ‘History essay.’ Several readings to assist your writing have been posted on Laulima. Additionally, please consult the “Writing Guidelines” attached to the syllabus.

Note that you are responsible for content, spelling, grammar and citations. Pay particularly close attention to citations – in the case of direct quotes, inclusion of not commonly known facts, and paraphrase of someone else’s argument.
Your extended writing assignments will be evaluated according to: the quality and clarity of your thesis, or argument; the use and citation of primary and secondary sources in the appropriate ways; the effective organization of the essay and consistency with expected writing conventions, spelling and grammar.

Required Course Readings

The following four volumes are available for purchase at the UH-M student store and are on reserve in Sinclair Library. Please assist the librarians by requesting the books with the appropriate PC number.

T. O. Lloyd, *The British Empire, 1558-1983* (PC# 393)
Cecil Woodham-Smith, *The Great Hunger, 1845-1849* (PC# 392)
E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (PC# 391)
Jane Samson, ed. *The British Empire (Oxford Readers)* (PC# 394)

Additional required readings, including those for the first week and for your thematic essay on Rudyard Kipling and George Orwell, have been uploaded to our shared Laulima site.

Disabled Student Policy

If you need accommodations because of a disability, please contact the KOKUA Program (V/T) at 956-7511 or 956-7612 and in Room 013 in the QLCSS and/or speak with the instructor to discuss specific needs. The instructor will work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet access needs related to the disability and to ensure a meaningful and full learning experience. All information is confidential.

Course Themes

*Theories of Imperialism*
*The Problem of Imperial ‘Hubris’*
*The Roles of Collaborators, or Intermediaries*
*The Roles of ‘The Man on the Spot’*
*Economic Practices and Ideas*
*Britain’s Relationship to Other ‘Great’ and Imperial Powers*
*Roles of Technology, Science and Medicine*
*History of the Idea of Race and the Practice of Racism*
*Nationalism and Imperialism in Britain and in the Colonies*
*‘Going Native’*
*Religious Practices, Institutions and Theologies*
*Administrative Practices and Ideas for Running the Empire*
*‘Informal’ and ‘Formal’ Imperialism*
*War and Empire*
*The Memory of Empire in Britain and the Colonies*
*‘The Celtic Fringe:’ Scotland, Ireland and the Empire*
Imperial Migrations and Diasporas
Imperial Labor and Workers
‘Imperium et Libertas?’ (Imperialism and Liberty?)
Colonial Resistance and Rebellion
The Empire in Art and/or Literature and/or Film
Women, Gender, Sexuality and Empire
The Nature and History of Cultural Contact
Settler Society, Politics, and Culture

Course Requirements.

Attendance and participation at lectures, which includes asking questions and taking notes. Please engage the material and do not email, text or otherwise use recreational and social media during our class time together.

Rather than a midterm exam, we will alternate four weekly open-note, open-book blue book quizzes and four weekly online discussion assignments. Those will ask students to ponder the major issues we have discussed in class and/or are considered in the required readings. These assignments are due before the next week starts. (25 points for a total of 200 points)

One 5 pp essay comparing and contrasting the Orwell and Kipling texts in light of one of the above course themes. This is not a research paper and students need not read beyond the relevant sections in our required readings and the primary and secondary materials uploaded to our Laulima site. Consider how reading Orwell and Kipling helps you better understand your chosen theme. Due no later than the last day of U H instruction. (100 points)

Three 3 pp essays introducing and discussing at least three different primary materials in three different sub-sections sections of Samson, ed. The British Empire. Choose one sub-section from before the 18th century, one from 1700-1900, and one since 1900. Consider the context, meaning and significance of the documents, which could include, for example, a government report, or a Parliamentary speech. What do they tell us about the history of the British Empire at that time and place, and about the theme that Samson has chosen for that section? Are the documents linked together? What connects and differentiates them? Please read “Sources in World History” concerning using primary sources. That document has been posted at our Laulima site. Due at any time during the term, but please do not wait until the last week to write all three. (50 points each for a total of 150 points)

One 2 pp essay answering one of the following four questions about The Great Hunger:
(1) What types of historical sources did the author use and did she use them effectively and fairly? Are there other sources that you would have used? (2) What does the author conclude were the long- and short-term causes of the Famine? Do you agree? (3) What were the consequences of the Famine after 1850? (4) Why do you think we continue to research and write about The Famine? (5) Did the book help you better understand “The
Damnable Question” of Irish-English relations? If so, why? If not, why not? Please include citations for your specific references. Due at the end of week 12. (50 points)

Take-home final examination: one essay on A Passage to India and one-page responses to five of “The British Empire: 10 Big Questions.” For Passage, students will be asked to select from among several choices a passage from the novel and discuss it in light of its role and significance in the novel, the history of British India and the history of the British Empire. The instructor will provide with the final examination several passages from which to choose. (50 points per section for a total of 100 points)

Please note that our essays are not book reports, or summaries, or research papers, but analytical and interpretive essays. Thus, they include a thesis and thesis statement, introduction, body with evidence and conclusion. No reading outside of the course is required or expected. Students should consult relevant course readings, lectures and materials distributed in class.

Essays must be typed. They will be evaluated for content and writing, including citation forms, grammar and syntax, and sentence and paragraph structures. Please remember to cite your sources according to the standard History form. Please consult the writing guidelines attached to the syllabus.

Want more information about writing History and other essays? A comprehensive and accessible guide is Richard Marius and Melvin E. Page, A Short Guide to Writing About History. Do you still have questions? English Simplified, Kate Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations, and The Chicago Manual of Style provide answers to the most common questions about writing, grammar and syntax. New and used copies are available. Those volumes will help with writing questions for the History 349/W papers and those assigned in other courses. Additional assistance is available at the Writing Center on the 4th floor of Kuykendall Hall. Appointments must be scheduled as this is not a walk-in service.

The instructor will be available to review rough drafts with you. Please give him enough time to read and evaluate your essay.

Lectures and Readings.

Week 1. Introduction and Course Themes

“Introductory and Thematic Readings” at Laulima

Week 3. The Expansion of England, circa 1600

Lloyd, The British Empire, ‘Preface’ and Chapter 1
Samson, ed. “The Early Empire,” The British Empire
Week 4. Ireland, Scotland and War in the Early 1700s

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 2
Samson, ed. “The Early Empire,” *The British Empire*

Week 5. The Many Faces of ‘Empire’ in the 18th Century

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 3

Week 6. The 18th-Century ‘American Crises’

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 4

Week 7. 18th-Century British India and the East India Company

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapters 3 and 4

Week 8. Britain, France and Ireland, circa 1800

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 5

Week 9. Emigrants, Settlers and their New Homes

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 6

Week 10. The Victorians in India: Before, During and After ‘The Mutiny’

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 7

Week 11. A Triinity of Victorian Crises: New Zealand, Jamaica and Ireland

Woodham-Smith, *The Great Hunger*

Week 12. The Victorians Elsewhere: China, Canada and Africa

Lloyd, *The British Empire*, Chapter 8
Week 13. ‘The New Imperialism’ at Home and Abroad, circa 1900

Lloyd, The British Empire, Chapter 9

Week 14. The New Century Dawns: War and Nationalism

Lloyd, The British Empire, Chapters 9 and 10
Forster, A Passage to India

Week 15. ‘The Winds of Change?’ Decolonization and Imperial Legacies

Lloyd, The British Empire, Chapters 11 - 14