Colonial Encounters: Europe and the Culture of Empire
Professor Lisa Tiersten
HIST 2321 | Fall 2022 | MW 10:10-11:25
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Course description:
This course explores the shaping of European identity through colonial encounters with American, African, Middle Eastern, and Asian cultures from 1500 to the post-colonial era. We will examine how Europeans have understood and managed difference and diversity in the modern period, with a focus on how these ideas and methods both emerged from and reshaped definitions of European culture and civilization. Topics include exoticism in the Enlightenment, the role of slavery in the development of European capitalism, orientalisms in art and literature, comparative colonization, the rise of ethnographic and other scientific discourses on the primitive, tourism, and consumer culture and empire.

Course requirements:
1. In-class midterm exam on October 19th (25% of grade).
2. A 5-7-page paper, either analyzing the use of a novel, travel memoir, or other primary source as a historical document or exploring a particular aspect of the colonial and postcolonial history of a geographic or cultural region. E-mailed prospectus due October 10th. Paper due November 22nd (30% of grade).
3. Final exam (30% of grade).
4. Class participation, including participation in class discussion and ten brief (~1-2 paragraphs) reading posts. Posts, which can respond to a prompt or analyze a student-chosen quote from the reading, must be posted to the Canvas discussion board by 9 a.m. of the morning of class; students may choose the texts or films they wish to write about. Students should also keep a record of their Canvas postings in a word document, which they will send to me twice (once after completing 5 postings and again after completing 10 postings) (15% of grade).

Course materials:
I’ve ordered the following books at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway & Amsterdam) for those who prefer to read physical books. These readings, along with all other assigned readings, are also are posted on Canvas. Course films are streamable through Canvas (E-Reserves & Panopto) or CLIO, except for one, for which I have arranged a screening.

Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place.
Edward Said, Orientalism.
I. EARLY MODERN COLONIAL MENTALITIES

1. Weds., 9/7: Introduction

2. Mon., 9/12: Before European Hegemony

3. Weds., 9/14: Expansionist Europe: The Conquest of the “New World”

   Assignment: Michel de Montaigne, “On Cannibals” (c. 1580), *Essays.*
   Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda, *Democrats Alter or Just Causes for War Among the Indians* (1544).


   Assignment: Orlando Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death*, Ch. 2, “Authority, Alienation, and Social Death.”

8. Mon., 10/3: The Slavery Debate

II. NATIONS AND EMPIRES

9. Weds., 10/5: Nation-Building and National Consciousness

10. Mon., 10/10: Orientalisms
Byron and Coleridge poems.

PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE (in an e-mail, no attachments)

11. Weds., 10/12: The Case of India
Thomas Macaulay, “Minute on Education” (1835).

12. Mon., 10/17: Darwin and the Invention of Race

13. Weds., 10/19: Midterm Examination

***Thurs, 10/20: Tarzan the Ape Man (dir. W.S. Van Dyke, 1932)***
6:00-8:00 pm, MLC LL002


*Tarzan the Ape Man* (dir. W.S. Van Dyke, 1932)

15. Weds., 10/26: **The New Imperialism in Africa**

16. Mon., 10/31: **Empire for the Masses**

17. Weds., 11/2: **Primitivism in the Museum**

18. Mon., 11/7: Election Day Holiday

III. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: EMPIRE IN DECLINE

19. Weds., 11/9: **Europe in Crisis: The Interwar Years**
Assignment: W. Somerset Maugham, “Rain” (1921), *Collected Short Stories*.

20. Mon., 11/14: **Anthropology and Eugenics in the Interwar Period**

21. Weds., 11/16: **Empire and Popular Culture: Babar and Tintin**

22. Mon., 11/21: **Colonial Relationships and Nationalist Consciousness**
Chocolat (dir. Claire Denis, 1988) (stream on Canvas/Panopto)
**PAPER DUE BY MIDNIGHT EDT 11/22**

23. Weds., 11/23: Thanksgiving Holiday


25. Weds., 11/30: The Algerian War: A Case Study

**IV. THE POSTCOLONIAL WORLD**

26. Mon., 12/5: The Afterlife of Empire

27. Weds., 12/7: Tourism and Cultural Traffic in the Postcolonial World
*Cannibal Tours* (dir. Dennis O’Rourke, 1988) (stream on CLIO via Alexander Street).
Browse through travel guide excerpts.

28. Mon., 12/12: Conclusions
Course outcomes:
- Students who complete the course will be able to:
  - Evaluate primary source materials through critical reading and interpretation
  - Understand how historians interpret evidence to construct historical narrative.
  - Evaluate divergent perspectives in the understanding of the same event
  - Interpret arguments in light of the existing literature on empire
  - Analyze how particular social and cultural contexts inform the perspectives and actions of historical actors.
  - Gain an awareness of the historical origins of contemporary conceptions of human rights.
  - Present arguments cogently in writing and speaking

Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity
The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students you must be responsible for the full citations of others’ ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

Disability-Related Accommodations:
In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with Disability Services (DS). More information on the DS registration process is available online at www.health.columbia.edu/ods. Faculty must be notified of registered students’ accommodations before exam or other accommodations will be provided. Students who have (or think they may have) a disability are invited to contact Disability Services for a confidential discussion at (212) 854-2388 (Voice/TTY) or by email at disability@columbia.edu.

Affordable Access to Course Texts
All students deserve to be able to access course texts. The high costs of textbooks and other course materials prohibit access and perpetuate inequity, and Barnard librarians are partnering with students, faculty, and staff to increase access. By the first day of advance registration for each term, you should be able to view on CourseWorks information provided by your faculty about required texts (including ISBN or author, title, publisher and copyright date) and their prices. Once you have selected your classes, here are some cost-free methods for accessing course texts, recommended by the Barnard Library: find out if your faculty has placed the texts
on reserve at Barnard Library or another Columbia library, and look for course texts using CLIO (library catalog), Borrow Direct (request books from partner libraries), Interlibrary Loan (request book chapters from any library), and NYPL. Students with financial need or insecurity can check items out from the FLIP lending libraries in the Barnard Library and Butler Library and can consult with the Dean of Studies and the Financial Aid Office about additional affordable alternatives for getting access to course texts. Talk with your librarian and visit the Barnard Library Textbook Affordability guide (library.barnard.edu/textbook-affordability) for more details.