

History BC 2321x
Fall 2015
M W 2:40-3:55
Milbank 324

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Off. Hrs: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30

COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS: EUROPE AND THE CULTURE OF EMPIRE

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 examination on October 14th (30% 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 A 5-7-page paper, either analyzing the use of a novel, travel memoir, or other primary source as a historical document or tracing a particular aspect of the colonial and postcolonial history of a geographic or cultural region (30% of grade). E-mailed prospectus due October 21st. Paper due November 25th.
3. Final examination. (30% of grade).
4. Participation in class discussion and viewing of all required films. (10% of grade).

COURSE MATERIALS

All assigned readings and two of the four course films are posted on Courseworks. All readings and course films are also on reserve at the Barnard Library. The following books can be purchased at Book Culture (112th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam):

E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*. Jamaica
Kincaid, *A Small Place*.
Edward Said, *Orientalism*.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Students who complete the course will be able to:

- Use and evaluate primary source materials through critical reading and interpretation
 - Do close readings of key texts
- Evaluate divergent perspectives in the understanding of the same event
- Interpret arguments in light of the existing literature on empire
- Present arguments cogently in writing and speaking

I. EARLY MODERN COLONIAL MENTALITIES

1. Wednesday, 9/9: Introduction

2. Monday, 9/14: Before European Hegemony

Assignment:

Robert Bartlett, *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350*, Ch. 12 “The Political Sociology of Europe After the Expansion.”

3. Wednesday, 9/16: Expansionist Europe: The Conquest of the New World

Assignment:

Hernan Cortés, *Letters from Mexico* [trans. and ed. Anthony Pagden], (London and New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986), “Second Letter”: 48-51, 54-69, 83-92, 99-112, 116-117, 124-142.

Michel-Rolph Trouillet, *Silencing the Past*, “Good Day, Columbus,” 108-140.

4. Monday, 9/21: The New World “Barbarian”

Assignment:

Michel de Montaigne, “On Cannibals,” *Essays* [1580].

Bartolome de las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies*, trans. Herma Briffault (NY: Seabury Press, 1974), 27-43; 79-87. Juan

Ginés de Sepúlveda, *Democrates Alter or Just Causes for War Among the Indians*.

5. Wednesday, 9/23: Enlightenment: Science, Exoticism, Paternalism Daniel
Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, selection.

6. Monday, 9/28: Enlightened Primitivism: The Noble Savage

Assignment:

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* “Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality,” Part I.

The Mission (dir. Roland Joffe, 1985) (**stream on Courseworks**).

7. Wednesday, 9/30: The Slave Trade and European Capitalism

Assignment:

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

Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery*, Ch. 7, “Life and Death in Diaspora.”

8. Monday, 10/5: The Slavery Debate

Assignment:

Thomas Fowell Buxton, *The African Slave Trade and Its Remedy* [1840] Ch. 4, “Superstitions and Cruelties of the Africans,” 226-45; 267-73.

Anti-slavery poetry.

II. NATIONS AND EMPIRES

9. Wednesday, 10/7: Nation-Building and National Consciousness *Assignment:*

Linda Colley, “Britishness and Otherness: An Argument,” *Journal of British Studies* 31 (1992): 309-29.

10. Monday, 10/12: Orientalisms *Assignment:*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Ch. 1, “The Scope of Orientalism,” 49-92, “Afterward,” 329-52.

Myra Jasanoff, *Edge of Empire*, “Collecting an Empire.”

Start E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*, Part I, “Mosque,” chs. 3-11.

Byron and Coleridge poems.

11. Wednesday, 10/14: **Midterm Examination**

12. Monday, 10/19: The Case of India

Assignment:

Finish E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*, Part I, "Mosque," chs. 3-11.

Thomas Macaulay, "Minute on Education" [1835].

Uday Mehta, "Liberal Strategies of Exclusion," in Frederick Cooper and Ann Stoler, *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*.

13. Wednesday, 10/21: Darwin and the Invention of Race

Assignment:

Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*, Ch. 7, "On the Races of Man."

Karl Pearson, *National Life from the Standpoint of Science*, 11-27.

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

14. Monday, 10/26: Africa, the Childhood of Man

Assignment:

Henry Stanley, *Through the Dark Continent*, vol. 2. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1878), Ch. 3 (48-72).

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

15. Wednesday, 10/28: The New Imperialism in Africa

Assignment:

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject*, Ch. 2, "Decentralized Despotism" (37-61) and Ch. 3, "Indirect Rule" (62-108).

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, Ch. 8, "Where There Aren't No Ten Commandments."

16. Monday, 11/2: Election Day Holiday

17. Wednesday, 11/4: Empire for the Masses

Assignment:

Bernth Lindfors, "Ethnological Show Business: Footlighting the Dark Continent," in Rosemarie Thomson, ed., *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*, 207-18.

III. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: EMPIRE IN DECLINE

18. Monday, 11/9: Primitivism in the Museum *Assignment:*
 Sally Price, *Primitive Art in Civilized Places*, Chs. 5, “Power Plays,” and 6,
 “Objets d’Art and Ethnographic Artifacts,” 68-99.
 Kwame Anthony Appiah, “Whose Culture Is It?” *The New York Review
 of Books*, February 9, 2006.
19. Wednesday, 11/11: Europe in Crisis: The Interwar Years
Assignment:
 W. Somerset Maugham, “Rain,” *Collected Short Stories*.
 Elizabeth Thompson, *Colonial Citizens*, Ch. 2, “Soldiers and Patriarchs:
 Pillars of Colonial Paternalism.”
20. Monday, 11/16: Anthropology and Eugenics in the Interwar Period
Assignment:
 Franz Boas, *The Mind of Primitive Man* [1911], Ch. 1, “Racial Prejudice.”
21. Wednesday, 11/18: Empire and Popular Culture: Babar and Tintin
Assignment:
 Jean de Brunhoff, *The Story of Babar*.
 Hergé, *Tintin in the Congo*,
- ****Wednesday, 11/18: *Chocolat* (dir. Claire Denis, 1988)******
 6:00-8:30 pm, Milbank 328
22. Monday, 11/23: Colonial Relationships and Nationalist Consciousness *Assignment:*
 Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, Chs. 2, “The Woman of Color and
 the White Man,” and 3, “The Man of Color and the White
 Woman.
Chocolat (dir. Claire Denis, 1988)
23. Wednesday, 11/25: Things Fall Apart: The Aftermath of World War II

Assignment:

Aimé Césaire, "From 'Discourse on Colonialism,'" in Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds., *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory*.

PAPER DUE (in class)

24. Monday, 11/30: The Algerian War: A Case Study

Assignment:

Jules Roy, *The War in Algeria*, Chs. 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Mouloud Feraoun, *Journal, 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War*, ed. James Le Sueur, 34, 42-43, 47, 48, 58, 59, 63, 64, 65, 74, 75, 81-81, 86-87, 90, 93, 117 (marked passages only)

IV. THE POSTCOLONIAL WORLD

25. Wednesday, 12/2: The Afterlife of Empire *Assignment:*

Renée Sylvain, "Disorderly Development: Globalization and the Idea of "Culture" in the Kalahari," *American Ethnologist* 32, 3 (2005): 354-70.

26. Monday, 12/7: Postcolonial Culture and Consumer Capitalism

Assignment:

Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto, "Images of Empire: Tokyo Disneyland and Japanese Cultural Imperialism," in Eric Smoodin, ed. *Disney Discourse: Producing the Magic Kingdom*.

Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*.

******Monday, 12/7: *Cannibal Tours* (dir. Dennis O'Rourke, 1987)******
6:00-7:15, Milbank 328

27. Wednesday, 12/9: Tourism in the Postcolonial World

Assignment:

Philip Frick McKean, "Towards a Theoretical Analysis of Tourism: Economic Dualism and Cultural Involution in Bali," in Valene Smith, ed. *Hosts and Guests: The Anthropology of Tourism*.
Cannibal Tours (dir. Dennis O'Rourke, 1987).

Browse through travel guide excerpts.

28. Monday, 12/14: Conclusions

Assignment:

Charles Piot, *Remotely Global*, Ch. 8, "A Kabre Modernity."

Arjun Appadurai, *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*.

Ch. 5, "Playing with Modernity: The Decolonization of Indian Cricket."