History 9703B
British Empire, 1875-1960

Instructor Information:
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Class Information:
Second Term, Tuesdays 9:30-11:30

Course Description:
History 9703B considers the development of the British Empire from the time that ‘imperialism’ emerged as an idea until British imperium disappeared suddenly, and unexpectedly in the fifteen years after World War Two. It is a reading course. While the legacies of earlier empires are considered, the focus is of this course remains on what have been called the ‘third’ and ‘fourth’ British Empires (Africa and the Middle East respectively) assembled, organised and dissolved in this period.

Grading:
Participation: 20%
Reviews: 20% X 2
Research Paper: 40%

Description of Graded Items

Participation is an assessment of how effectively a student has participated in class discussions.

Review: while each student will read one book for each class as indicated in the reading list contained within the course outline, twice in the course each student will select a book to formally review. Reviews should be approximately five pages long. Reviews are due on the date that a particular book is to be discussed. Students should be prepared, on that day, to lead discussion concerning the book they have reviewed. Grading will be ‘blended’, in the sense that it will reflect both the quality of the written submission and the in class presentation.

Research Paper: each student will produce a research paper of approximately 20 pages addressed to the question ‘how did it work?’. The focus of the examination will be an imperial system or institution. Papers should contain a significant historiographical component, and use such primary material as is reasonably available. Papers are due on the last day of classes. More guidance will be provided in class.
Course Outline with Reading Schedule

*** In preparation for each class ensure that you read one work. All are available in the library. Some are available in electronic edition through the library server ***

Week 1 – Course introduction and Overview

Week 2 – Why Imperialism?


Week 3 – Imperialists and Sceptics


Week 4 – African Empire

• Ronald Hyman, *Understanding the British Empire* (Cambridge: CUP, 2010).


**Week 5 – Proconsuls**


• Lord Roberts, *Forty-One Years in India* (London: R. Bentley, 1898).

**Week 6 – Imperial Federation to Commonwealth**


• David Gorman, *Imperial Citizenship: Empire and the Question of Belonging* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006).


**Week 7 – ‘Britain’s Moment in the Middle East’**


**Week 8 – How Empire?**


Week 9 – Superpower, Liberal Empire or Commonwealth?


Week 10 – Gravediggers


Week 11 – Collapse


• Ronald Hyman, *Britain’s Declining Empire* (Cambridge: CUP, 2006).


**Week 12 – Legacy**


