HIS 9830 A
Colonialism in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Room: Stevenson Hall 3166

Professor Frank Schumacher

“Mrs. Wilkins teaching an Igorotte boy the cakewalk”
1. Contact Details

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2. Course Description

This course examines the history of modern era colonialism and its legacies in a comparative fashion. It utilizes case-studies from various European colonial empires as well as Japan, and the United States, draws on multi-disciplinary insights from fields such as history, sociology, geography, and anthropology, and explores the political, economic, military, social, cultural, intellectual, and environmental dimensions of colonialism.

This course is designed as an exercise in global history. It will cover a wide range of subjects in multiple world regions and will give agency to colonizers and colonized alike and emphasize the entangled nature and transnational character of the colonial experience. As such the readings will underline the multiple connections and transfers between empires, explore the mutual impact of the colonial experience on the colonies and the imperial centers, and evaluate the enduring legacies of modern colonialism. The following themes will be analyzed:

- theories of colonialism
- colonial state-formation (i.e. administrative types, legal frameworks)
- varieties of the colonial economy (i.e. labor migration, industrial education)
- colonial societies (i.e. bureaucracies, agents of colonialism, local elites)
- the functions of race and gender in the colonial experience (i.e. citizenship and race, masculinity and empire, and the colonial ‘gaze’)
- colonial war and anti-colonial resistance
- the colonial imagination and the imperial centre (i.e. expositions, museums, and commodity culture)
- colonial social-engineering (i.e. medicine, urban planning, infrastructure)
- colonialism and nature (i.e. zoos, environmentalist thought)
- colonialism transnational (i.e. inter-imperial and intra-imperial transfers)
- colonial legacies (i.e. current debates over restitutions, apologies, and economic disparities)
3. Readings

a) Required for the Course


b) Further Readings:


BEN-GHIAT, Ruth, Mia Fuller (Eds.), Italian Colonialism (New York: Palgrave, 2005).


COOMBES, Annie E., Rethinking Settler Colonialism. History and Memory in Australia, Canada, Aotearoa, New Zealand, and South Africa (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2005).


DRIVER, Felix, David Gilbert (Eds.), Imperial Cities. Landscape, Display, and Identity (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003).


FRIEDRICHSMeyer, Sara, Sara Lennox, Susanne Zantop (Eds.), The Imperialist Imagination. German Colonialism and Its Legacies (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1999).


KIRBY, Diane, Catherine Coleborne (Eds.), *Law, History, and Colonialism. The Reach of Empire* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002).


MOSES, Dirk, Dan Stone (Eds.), *Colonialism and Genocide* (London: Routledge, 2007).


c) Background Reading (for quick orientation)


BENJAMIN, Thomas (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450* (Farmington Hills, MI: MacMillan, 2007).

EMPIRE ONLINE, Digital Resource by Adam Matthew Digital at: [http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/introduction/index.aspx](http://www.empire.amdigital.co.uk/introduction/index.aspx)


4. Evaluation

The final grade for this course is based on the accumulated results of two assignments and the participation grade.

Presentation: 25%
Essay: 50%
Participation: 25%

1. Presentation
You will serve as co-moderator for one session. This assignment encompasses a 20 minute presentation. You should develop a coherent analysis of the week’s topic. Your presentation can utilize PowerPoint. Include visuals and provide a handout with timeline, important events, and core arguments. Develop questions for further discussion.

2. Essay
You are expected to write a research essay of approx. 20pp for this course on a topic mutually agreed upon. Papers will be double-spaced and printed in standard size font (i.e. Times New Roman 12pt) with standard margins. Please do not forget to spell-check your paper and number your pages. The essay is due Friday December 8 in class.

3. Participation
The success of the seminar depends on your full completion of the assigned readings, your prepared attendance, and your active participation.

5. Course Organization

September 8    Introduction

September 15   Conceptual Horizons - I


September 22  Conceptual Horizons - II


September 29  Colonial State & Society


October 6 Colonial War & Technologies of Rule


October 20  Race, Gender, and the Colonial Experience


McCLINTOCK, Anne, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (London: Routledge, 1995), online.

October 27  
**Gender, Sexuality, and the Colonial Experience**


November 3  
**The Colonial Imagination**


FORUM, “The German Colonial Imagination”, in: *German History* 26:2, 251-271, online.


SEBRING, Ellen, “Civilization and Barbarism. Cartoon Commentary & ‘The White Man’s Burden’ (1898-1902”, MIT Visualizing Cultures, at:
November 10  
Technology, Urban Planning, and Social Engineering


November 17  
Colonialism, Science & Nature


November 24  Colonialism Transnational


LINDNER, Ulrike, “Transnational Movements between Colonial Empires: Migrant Workers from the British Cape Colony in the German Diamond Town of Luderitzbucht”, in: European Review of History 16:5 (October 2009), 679-695, online.


December 1  Colonial Legacies


CAMPOS, Angela, “‘We are still ashamed of our own history’: Interviewing Ex-Combatants of the Portuguese Colonial War (1961-1974)”, in: Lusotopie 15:2 (2008), 107-126, online.


December 8  Seminar Review