

The University of Western Ontario
Department of History
2017-18

History 3412G
Soldiers, Sailors, and Empire: Britain in the World, 1689 to 1902

Instructor: Allyson N. May
Office: Lawson Hall 1205
Office hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30, or after class
E-mail: amay6@uwo.ca

This course examines the emergence of Britain as an imperial power in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the military means by which that empire was acquired (and lost). It explores both the day-to-day realities of soldiers' and sailors' lives and the changing experience of military engagement as well as the effects of war on state formation and national identity within Britain.

We will meet three hours per week. The first two hours will consist of a lecture; in the third, we will discuss assigned readings. Students will write a **1200-word** book report, a **2500-word** essay on a topic of their choice (instructor's permission required) and a three-hour final exam.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of this course students will have

- Mastered the chronology of Britain's acquisition of empire in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
- Grasped the geographical extent of the British empire in this period and Britain's military engagement with European rivals
- Become familiar with the nature of military and naval engagement, including the impact of organizational and technological change
- Become aware of the role played not just by military and naval commanders but soldiers and sailors in the ranks
- Understood the significance of empire for British national identity
- Improved their skills in both oral and written communication

Required texts:

Lawrence James, *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire* (Abacus, 1995)
Patrick O'Brian, *Master and Commander* (Harper, 2002)

Primary documents for discussion will be made available online.

Grading scheme:

Assignment 1 (book report, due 15 Feb.):	20%
Assignment 2 (research essay, due 22 Mar.):	30%
Participation:	10%
Final exam:	40%

Written assignments:

Students will write a 1200-word report on Patrick O'Brian's novel, *Master and Commander*. A paper copy of this assignment is due in class; electronic submission via Turnitin is also mandatory. They will also write a 2500-word research essay. Both paper and electronic submission are again required.

Extensions will NOT be granted unless the request is processed through Academic Counselling, in advance of the due date. A late penalty of 2% per day, including weekends, will be assigned if the paper and electronic copies of the assignments are not received on the due date.

Appeal of grades: Any request for reconsideration of a grade on a course assignment MUST take the form of a written statement outlining the reasons for your request (minimum 250 words). Please bear in mind that an appealed grade can be lowered, left unchanged or raised.

Please note: Electronic devices may be used in class for the taking of notes. Disrespectful or disruptive use of such devices will result in a request to turn the device off; you may also be asked to leave the classroom. Filming or taping of lectures is not permitted. **No electronic devices may be used during the final exam.**

Lecture schedule:

- 1 (11 Jan.) Introduction
James, pp. 3-48
- 2 (18 Jan.) 1689-1748: Issues and enemies
James, pp. 51-65
- 3 (25 Jan.) The Seven Years' War: Naval triumph
James, pp. 66-82
- 4 (1 Feb.) America: Britain's first empire
James, pp. 83-121
- 5 (8 Feb.) American rebellion
James, pp. 122-38
- 6 (15 Feb.) Continued struggle against France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars
James, pp. 151-65

Book report due

Reading week

- 7 (1 Mar.) Power and glory: Mid-Victorian Empire
James, pp. 169-83
 - 8 (8 Mar.) Crimean disaster
James, pp. 184-99
 - 9 (15 Mar.) India: mutiny and massacre
James, pp. 200-234
 - 10 (22 Mar.) The Far East and the Pacific
James, pp. 139-50, 235-50
- Research essay due**
- 11 (29 Mar.) Britain in Africa: Kitchener and Khartoum; The Boer War
James, pp. 251-349
 - 12 (5 Apr.) Film: *The History Boys*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisites and Antirequisites:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

- A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually

preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Medical Issues:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca