HISTORY 500: COLONIALISM IN SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN HISTORY

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History 500, Fall 2012
3 units
Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm
Humanities room 5245

DESCRIPTION: This seminar introduces students to the history of colonialism in South Asia and Africa. Through select readings each week students will analyze some key events, issues and debates in the history and historiography of colonial rule and anti-colonial resistance. These include the international context for the emergence of Britain's second empire in the nineteenth century; the nature of early colonial expansion and consolidation through collaborative trade, missionary work and military expansion; the re-invention of tradition in colonial societies especially with regard to racial and ethnic identity, gender, religion and caste; the changes brought about by missionary and colonial education, labor migration and urbanization; and various expressions of resistance to colonial rule in non-violent, violent and millenarian movements. Although at its height Britain had an empire over which the sun never set, Britain was not the only colonial power in South Asia and Africa, nor was the experience of colonialism the same across all colonies and societies. Through an exploration of the changes brought about by colonial rule in the political, social and economic spheres in several different colonial situations, this course provides a unique comparative perspective on the history of colonialism in various regions of the world including India, East Africa and South Africa.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
1) Four 3-page (double-spaced) response papers on assigned primary sources due on the dates indicated in the syllabus
2) One 10-page mid-term short paper (literature review essay) on any one of the book listed at the end of the syllabus due on 10/30
3) One 20-page final long paper due on 12/17
4) One student-led discussion every week
5) Student presentations on final papers

EVALUATION:
Class participation: 15%
Discussion lead & Student presentation: 10%
Response Papers: 20%
Mid-term Paper: 20%
Final Paper: 35%
More than two unexplained absences taken without the instructor’s prior permission will result in a point deduction from the overall class grade. All medical claims must be accompanied by a doctor’s note. Please look over the due dates of assignments carefully for any potential conflict with other class commitments. You can request a change in the due-date by 9/13. No extensions will be considered after this date with the exception of medical emergencies that must be supported with appropriate documentation.

**READINGS:**
All readings listed in the syllabus are required readings. Short articles and chapters are available on the learn@uw course website; primary sources accessible on the internet have been indicated as appropriate. Journal articles are can be accessed online through MadCat. One book is available for purchase from the university book store:

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*

Please check the course website for guidelines for response papers, mid-term literature review and final paper.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week I**  
4 September  
**Introductions**

**Week II**  
11 September  
**Imperial Impulse**


Mrinalini Sinha, “Britishness, Clubbability, and the Colonial Public Sphere: The Genealogy of an Imperial Institution in Colonial India” *Journal of British Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 4
Week III
18 September

Ruling India
Chris Bayly, *Origins of Nationality in South Asia: Patriotism and Ethical Governance in the Making of Modern India*, ch. 8

Nicholas Dirks, *The Scandal of Empire: India and the Creation of Imperial Britain*, chs 1-3


Primary Source for Response Paper I due in class: Painting of Polier's “nautch” (on course website)

Week IV
25 September

Scramble for Africa

R. Oliver and A. Atmore, *Africa Since 1800*, chapters 9 & 10


Week V
2 October

Re/Invention of Tradition (I)


Mridu Rai, *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects*, ch 2
**Week VI** 9 October

**Re/Invention of Tradition (II)**

David Washbrook, “India 1818-1816: The Two Faces of Colonialism” *Oxford History of the British Empire The Nineteenth Century* vol. iii


**Primary Source for Response Paper II due in class: Jomo Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya (selections on course website)**

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**Week VII** 16 October

**Rebellion, Resistance and Challenging Authority**


Terence Ranger, “Power, Religion and Community: The Matobo Case” in *Subaltern Studies, 7*

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**Week VIII** 23 October

**No Class – work on book reviews**

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**Week IX** 30 October

**The “Civilizing” Mission**

Tsitsi Dangarembga *Nervous Conditions* (entire book)
Week X 6 November

**Labor Migration, Gender and Urbanization in Africa**

Emmanuel Akyeampong, “Wop e tam won pe ba (‘You like cloth but you don’t want children’): Urbanization, individualism and gender relations in colonial Ghana c.1900-1939”, in D. Anderson (ed) *Africa’s Urban Past*, ch13

Phyllis Martin, *Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville*, chs 4&6

**Primary Source for Response Paper III due in class: Macaulay’s Minute on Education**

Week XI 13 November

**Making the Anticolonial Movements “Nationalist”**
Gautam Bhadra, “Four Rebels of 1857”, Selected Subaltern Studies

Shahid Amin, “Gandhi as Mahatama, Gorakhpur District, Eastern UP, 1921” *Subaltern Studies vol 3*,


John Lonsdale, “Authority, Gender and Violence”, in E.S.A. Odhiambo and John Lonsdale (eds), *Mau Mau and Nationhood*

Week XII 20 November

**Movie Viewing**

Week XIII 27 November

**Independence and Violence**
Gyanendra Pandey, "The Prose of Otherness" *Subaltern Studies VIII*

Gyanendra Pandey, *Remembering Partition*, chs 4 & 5

Jonathon Glassman, War of Words, ch 7

Primary Source for Response Paper IV due in class: Jawaharlal Nehru, “Tryst with Destiny”

Week XIV & V 4 & 11 December
Student Presentations

List of books for Mid-term Literature Review Essay

*****Select any one book****
Amadou Hampate Ba, The Fortunes of Wangrin
J.M. Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians
Amitav Ghosh, The Calcutta Chromosome
William Darlymple, The White Mughals