Course description
This course examines the history and historiography of the British Empire and decolonization from the crisis of empire in the late 18th century to decolonization in the 20th century. We will look at specific case studies, including Ireland, India, Kenya, and South Africa, to explore a typology and chronology of empire as well as the more detailed interaction between metropole and periphery, as well as periphery and periphery. We will also take a more general and critical look at explanatory metanarratives of empire such as western capitalist expansion, liberalism and postcolonial theory.

Requirements
Meaningful class participation (including co-leading discussions) – 50%
Paper (20-25 pages) – 50%
You may choose the most appropriate option below:
1) Research Proposal (methodology, review of the literature, preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources)
2) Final essay based on cumulative reading in response to questions to be set by instructor
All papers are due on December 21; absolutely no extensions

Required Texts


All the above texts are at the bookstore. All articles and book chapters are available as PDF files on Blackboard

**Schedule of Meetings**

**Aug. 31 – Empire -- 16th Century to Present**

Niall Ferguson, Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power

**Sept. 7 – Economics of Empire**


**Sept. 14 –Edmund Burke and Liberal Imperialism**


Sara Suleri, *The Rhetoric of English India* (Chicago, 1992), Ch. 2: “Edmund Burke and the Indian Sublime” and Ch. 3: “Reading the Trial of Warren Hastings”

Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton, 2005), Ch. 3: “Burke's Universal Peculiarism,” 59-100


**Sept. 21 – An Empire of Law**

Martin J. Wiener, *An Empire on Trial: Race, Murder, and Justice under British Rule, 1870-1935*

**Sept. 28 – The Technologies of Dominance**

Partha Chatterjee, *The Black Hole of Empire: History of a Global Practice of Power*


**Oct. 5 – A Violent Empire**


Oct. 12 -- Gender, Race and Sexuality


Douglas Lorimer, "Theoretical Racism in Late-Victorian Anthropology, 1870-1900," Victorian Studies, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Spring, 1988), pp. 405-430

Anna Davin, "Imperialism and Motherhood" in Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World, ed. Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler (Berkeley, 1997), pp. 87-151


Oct. 19-- Sport and Empire


Oct. 26 -- Free traders, Freebooters and Christian Missionaries


Andrew Porter, “‘Commerce and Christianity’: The Rise and Fall of a Nineteenth-Century Missionary Slogan,” The Historical Journal, Vol. 28, No. 3 (Sep., 1985), pp. 597-621


Nov. 2 – South Africa

Martin Meredith, Diamonds, Gold, and War: The British, the Boers, and the Making of South Africa

Nov. 9 – The Middle East

Tony Dodge, Inventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation Building and a History Denied


Nov. 16 – Empire Strikes Back

Kate O’Malley, Ireland, India and Empire: Indo-Irish Radical Connections, 1919-64


Nov. 30 – Decolonization: Kenya

David Anderson, *Histories of the Hanged: The Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire*

Dec. 7 – The Empire at Home

Bernard Porter, *The Absent-Minded Imperialists: Empire, Society and Culture in Britain*

Dec. 14 – Imagined Empire – Imperialism and Popular Culture


Elaine Showalter, *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture at the Fin de Siecle* (New York, 1990), ch. 5, “King Romance”