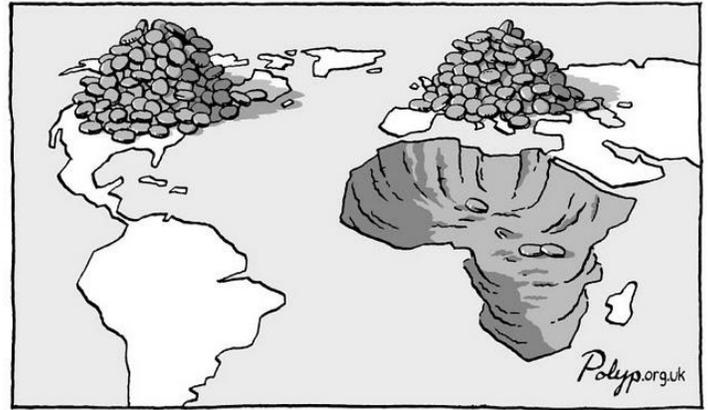


HIS106 Imperialism

CUNY John Jay College

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Course Description:

This First Year Seminar examines the role of empires and imperialism in the making of the modern world. Our topics will include the causes and dynamics of conquest, the nature of domination and resistance, the impact of colonial rule in Africa and the Middle East, Cold War relations between the superpowers and the Third World, the many faces of neo-colonialism, debates about “cultural imperialism,” interventionism and the War on Terror, and the connection between past empires and contemporary disparities of wealth and power between the West and the non-West.

This course fulfills the “Justice and the Individual” General Education requirement.

Revised FYS objectives were implemented in fall 2016.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe one’s own relationship to significant issues of justice by thinking, speaking, and writing about imperialism and its many forms
2. Develop your ability to construct and evaluate historical arguments through evidence-based inquiry
3. Assess the effectiveness of your role in collaborations with people of diverse backgrounds
4. Demonstrative effective planning and reflection
5. Explore college resources and groups that support your academic goals and personal growth

Requirements:

Your grade in this course will reflect the following:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Quizzes and Short Assignments | 20% |
| Exam | 15% |
| Essay 1 (Spence) | 15% |
| Essay 2 (Oyono) | 15% |
| Group Projects | 15% |
| Research Presentation | 10% |
| Participation | 10% |

Though we will review upcoming assignments each session, it is essential that you read this syllabus before each class. Think about it as your guide to the course—the syllabus tells you what we are doing this week, and it lets you know what is coming next. This course will involve a lot of reading and writing, so it is essential that you keep up with the work and plan your schedule accordingly. If you need another copy of the syllabus, it is available on Blackboard.

Texts:

Jonathan Spence, *The Question of Hu* (New York: Knopf, 1988). ISBN-10: 0679725806

Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy* (London: Heinemann, 1960). Any edition is fine.

Mike de Seve and Daniel Burwen, *Operation Ajax: The Story of the CIA Coup that Remade the Middle East* (New York: Verso, 2015). ISBN-10: 1781689237. This book is also available as an iPhone app – you can purchase whichever version you prefer.

There are also additional readings listed in the syllabus – you can find these on Blackboard. All the above books are on reserve in the library, but it is HIGHLY recommended that you buy your own copies. You can find very affordable used books online at www.alibris.com, www.betterworldbooks.com, www.powells.com, or www.amazon.com. In addition, you can rent textbooks through the bookstore and www.chegg.com.

Review Quizzes:

In order to succeed in this course, it is essential that you complete the assigned readings and come to class prepared to talk about them. For this reason, one class each week will begin with a review quiz. These quizzes will be “open note,” which means you can use your own notes (but not the readings) to answer the quiz. In addition, I will occasionally assign short writing assignments to be completed as homework. For these quizzes and assignments, you can write informally, using whatever words come easiest to you – your grade will not consider spelling or grammar, only the strength of your arguments and use of evidence. Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Exam:

The comprehensive exam will consist of an identification section and an essay. You will receive a review guide that includes all the terms and essay questions that will appear on the exam.

Papers:

You will write two short essays this semester. You can find the essay prompts on Blackboard, but we will discuss each paper in detail before it is due. Each of the essays must be 750 words. Please note that no late assignments will be accepted. You MUST turn in your papers using Blackboard – do not bring printed copies of your paper to class, and please do not email your paper to me.

Research Presentation:

During the last week of the semester, you will present a seven to ten minute report to the class. In it, you will build upon what you have learned by exploring how one of our course themes relates to your own interests, using newspaper articles to support your discussion. You will be graded on your presentation and the questions that you ask of other presenters. We'll talk more about this later.

Group Projects:

Throughout this semester you will work on several projects as part of a small group. Some of these projects will be ungraded, and some will be graded. Towards the end of the semester, there will be two special in-class group projects that will determine ten percent of your final grade. We will talk more about these projects and group work in general throughout the semester.

Field Trip:

As part of this course, you will go on a field trip to the African Burial Ground, in Lower Manhattan. We will talk more about this trip as it approaches, but please note that it is a required component of the course.

Attendance Policy:

Please come to class on time, with your cell phone turned off. There are no make-ups for missed assignments or quizzes, and more than four absences will seriously affect your grade in the course.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance:

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, I must receive written verification of your eligibility from OAS, which is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is your responsibility to initiate contact with OAS and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to me.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writings as your own. It is a serious form of academic dishonesty. Here are some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the sources
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments
- Submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the Internet without citing the source, and "cutting and pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

In order to ensure that you clearly understand what plagiarism is, you **MUST** complete a graded online tutorial and quiz through Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard's SafeAssign software automatically checks all your writing for plagiarism, and that a single act of plagiarism—or any other form of academic dishonesty—can result in a failing grade for the assignment or the entire course. Please see me if you have any questions about this.

Office Hours:

I have listed my office hours at the top of the syllabus—please come visit if you have any questions about course requirements, the things we talk about in class, the readings and assignments, study strategies, John Jay, special concerns, letters of recommendation, graduate school, or anything else.

Grades:

In accordance with CUNY policy, your grade in this course will reflect the following scale:

| | |
|---|---|
| A | Excellent (90-100%) |
| B | Good (80-89%) |
| C | Satisfactory (70-79%) |
| D | Passing (60-69%) |
| F | Failure/Unsuccessful Completion of the Course (less than 59%) |

What I Expect From You and What You Can Expect from Me:

This syllabus spells out exactly what this course requires. In order for you to get the most out of the semester, I expect you to review this syllabus on a regular basis, complete the readings and assignments punctually, check your John Jay email regularly, come to class ready to learn, and participate thoughtfully and respectfully in our discussions. In turn, I will be clear about my expectations, avoid wasting your time or giving you busy work that serves no purpose, answer all

your questions about the requirements and material, grade your work fairly and promptly, and provide you with everything that you need to succeed.

Course Schedule

August 31

Welcome and Introductions

September 2

A Case Study

Film: *Firestone and the Warlord*

Reading: Adebayo Oyejede, "Liberia," in *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, ed. Thomas Benjamin (Detroit: Macmillan, 2007), Vol. 2, 728-730.

September 7

NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 9

What is Imperialism?

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (New York: Routledge, 2005), 1-12; "In Their Own Words: A Field Guide to Accused Plagiarists' Public Statements," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 5, 2014.

Part I: Gunpowder Empires and Merchant Capitalism, 1400-1750

September 10 (WE HAVE CLASS ON A THURSDAY)

The Big Picture ca. 1400

Reading: Janet Abu Lughod, "The World System in the Thirteenth Century," in *Islamic and European Expansion*, ed. Michael Adas (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1993), 75-85.

ONLINE PLAGIARISM QUIZ DUE BEFORE CLASS

September 14

NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 16

The Premodern World Economy

Reading: Abu Lughod, "World System," 85-92.

GROUP WORK IN CLASS: PREMODERN TRADE

September 21

African and Asian Land Empires

Reading: William McNeill, "The Age of Gunpowder Empires," in *Expansion*, ed. Adas, 103-120.

GROUP FOCUS QUESTIONS ON WORLD SYSTEM DUE IN CLASS

September 23

NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 28

European Maritime Empires

Reading: McNeill, "Gunpowder," 120-137; Kenneth Pomeranz and Steven Topik, "The Violent Birth of Corporations," in their *The World That Trade Created* (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2006), 163-165.

September 30

Merchant Capitalism: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Reading: John Iliffe, *Africans: History of a Continent, Second Edition* (New York: Cambridge University, 2007), 131-152; Sidney Mintz, "The Forefathers of Crack."

October 5

NO CLASS: FIELD TRIP

This week, you should visit the African Burial Ground National Monument, located at 290 Broadway. You must go to Visitor's Center as well as the Memorial, so check the hours online and plan your visit accordingly. Admission is free.

Reading: Spence, 1-44.

October 7

Merchant Capitalism: The East India Companies

Reading: Spence, 44-95.

October 12

NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

October 14

Spence Discussion

Reading: Spence, 95-135.

PAPER 1 DRAFT DUE IN CLASS FOR PEER REVIEW

October 15

PAPER 1 DUE BY END OF DAY

Part II: New Imperialism, 1798-1960s

October 19

What is New Imperialism?

Reading: J. A. Hobson, "Imperialism," in *European Imperialism, 1830-1930*, ed. Alice Conklin and Ian Fletcher (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1999), 14-20.

IN CLASS: PLANNING THE REST OF THE SEMESTER

October 21

The Scramble for Africa

Reading: G.N. Uzoigwe, "European Partition and Conquest of Africa: an Overview," in *UNESCO General History of Africa*, Vol. VII, ed. A. Adu Boahen (Berkeley: University of California, 1985), 19-44.

GROUP WORK IN CLASS: IDENTIFYING HISTORICAL CAUSES

October 26

The Mandate System in the Middle East

Reading: Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Chatham: Faber, 2005), 315-332.

October 28

The Colonial Order

Reading: Begin Oyono.

November 2

Oyono Discussion

Reading: Finish Oyono.

PAPER 2 DRAFT DUE IN CLASS FOR PEER REVIEW

November 4

Nationalism and Decolonization in Africa and Asia

PAPER 2 DUE

November 9

Colonial Legacies?

Reading: Each member of your group should read one of the following:

a. A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1989), 94-112.

b. Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (New York: Basic Books, 2002), 303-317.

GRADED GROUP PROJECT IN CLASS

Part III: Postcolonialism and Neocolonialism, 1941-2015

November 11

The Cold War: the Superpowers and the Third World

Reading: Using the Oxford Reference and the Gale Virtual Reference Library (both available through the John Jay College website), find and read an article on "The Cold War" and another on "The Third World." You must read one article from each database, and you must copy down the full bibliographic reference for each article in your notes. Bonus: Read an article by Fred Halliday on one of these topics.

November 16

What is Neocolonialism?

Reading: Kwame Nkrumah, *Neo-colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism* (New York: International Publishers, 1966), excerpts.

FOCUS QUESTIONS ON NEOCOLONIALISM DUE

November 18

Cultural Imperialism and Indigenous Rights

Film: *Between Two Worlds*

Reading: Begin *Operation Ajax*

November 23

Interventionism: The United States and Iran

Reading: Finish *Operation Ajax*

Extra credit: Ray Takeyh, "What Really Happened in Iran," *Foreign Affairs* 93, no. 4 (2014): 2-12.

GRADED GROUP PROJECT IN CLASS

November 25

Globalization and the New World Order

Reading: Michael Ignatieff, "The Burden," *New York Times*, January 10, 2003; Arundhati Roy, "Do Turkeys Enjoy Thanksgiving?"

Part IV: Making Connections

November 30

The Past and the Future

Reading: Immanuel Wallerstein, *European Universalism and the Rhetoric of Power* (New York: New Press, 2006), 1-29.

December 2, 7, and 9

Research Presentations

December 14

Review Session

Final Exam date TBA