

PSC 259:

Colonialism, Independence, and Nationhood

Instructor: Dr. John French

Spring 2015

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Tues. and Thurs. 1:00-2:30

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Course Description

In the early 20th century, nearly all of the world was governed by a handful of European countries (or by people descended from those countries). By 1970, this direct European dominance had virtually collapsed, and the number of independent countries in the world had more than tripled. In this course, we will examine the process of European colonization beginning in the fifteenth century, as well as its unraveling in the twentieth century with the rise of anti-colonial nationalist movements around the world. To explore these processes, we will compare and contrast the processes of colonization and decolonization in Mexico, India, and the Belgian Congo.

Readings:

The following books are required, and are available in the campus bookstore:

MacQueen, Norrie. *Colonialism* (ISBN 9781405846301)

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost* (ISBN 9780618001903)

All other readings will be available on the course Desire2Learn (D2L) site. Please let me know right away if you have any trouble accessing D2L or any of the readings.

Assignments and Grading

The majority of your grade for this course will come from two short (5-7 page) papers, written on a formerly colonized country of your choice. You may choose any former colony *except* the

United States, Mexico, India, or the Belgian Congo. For each paper, you will be given a set of questions to answer about your chosen colony, distributed in class; you will then have about two weeks to find the answers to the questions and write them up. Generally speaking, the first paper will cover the colonization of your chosen country, and the second its decolonization. You may choose any former colony, but only one student will be allowed to write on each one. Each paper is worth 25% of your final grade.

In addition to the papers, there will be a mid-term and a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay questions. Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade.

The remaining 20% of your final grade will come from attendance and participation. Daily attendance will be taken, and much of your participation grade will be based on your attendance. More than two *unexcused* absences will affect your grade directly. If you are ill or have another valid reason for missing class, please let me know about it as soon as possible.

Grade Summary and Scale:

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|
| Paper #1: | 25% | A: 94-100 |
| Paper #2: | 25% | A-: 90-93 |
| Midterm: | 15% | B+: 87-89 |
| Final: | 15% | B: 84-86 |
| Participation: | 20% | B-: 80-83 |

Schedule and Readings

Part I: Colonization

Mar 31: Course Introduction

1. *Latin America and Mexico*

Apr 2: MacQueen Ch 1, pp. 1-22
Treaty of Tordesillas (D2L)
Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha (D2L)
Hernan Cortes, Letter to King Charles II (D2L)

Apr 7: Hassig: "The Collision of Two Worlds" (D2L)
Burkholder and Johnson: "Ruling New World Empires" (D2L)

Apr 9: Burkholder: "An Empire Beyond Compare"
Liss: *Mexico under Spain*, pp. 118-131 (D2L)
Deadline to get your choice of colony approved

2. *India*

Apr 14: MacQueen Ch 2, pp. 23-50
Peers, *India under Colonial Rule*, pp. 30-63 (D2L)
Questions for Paper #1 distributed in class

Apr 16: Peers: *India under Colonial Rule*, pp. 64-88 (D2L)
James: *Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India*, pp. 301-321
Kipling: "The White Man's Burden" (D2L)

Apr 21: James: *Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India*, pp. 341-363 (D2L)
Macaulay: "Minute on Education" (D2L)

3. *Africa and the Belgian Congo*

Apr 23: Chamberlain: *The Scramble for Africa*, Ch. 3 (D2L)
Hochschild, Prologue and Ch. 1-3, pp. 6-60
Film: "This Magnificent African Cake"

Apr 28: Rhodes: "Confession of Faith" (D2L)
Hochschild Ch. 4-6, pp. 61-101
Paper #1 Due in Class

Apr 30: Hochschild Ch. 7 & 11, pp. 101-114 and 167-184
Review for Mid-term

May 5: **MID-TERM EXAM**

Part II: Decolonization and Nationalism

1. *Latin America and Mexico*

May 7: Guedea: "The Old Colonialism Ends, the New Colonialism Begins" (D2L)
Henderson: *The Mexican Wars for Independence*, pp. 16-30 (D2L)

May 12: Suchlicki: *Mexico*, pp. 57-64
Henderson: *The Mexican Wars for Independence*, pp. 181-209

May 14: Archer: "Fashioning a New Nation" (D2L)

2. *India*

May 19: MacQueen Ch 3, pp. 51-70
Copland: *India 1885-1947*, pp. 31-52 (D2L)
Covenant of the League of Nations, Article 22 (D2L)

May 21: British Policy Statement on Burma (D2L)
James: *Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India*, pp. 545-585 (D2L)
Questions for Paper #2 distributed in class

May 26: Copland: *India 1885-1947*, pp. 64-87 (D2L)
MacQueen, Ch 5, pp. 93-121
UN Declaration on the Independence of Colonized Countries and Peoples (D2L)

3. *Africa and the Belgian Congo*

May 28: Roger Casement, Speech from the Dock (D2L)
Hochschild Ch. 14 & 18, pp. 209-224 and 275-291

June 3: Sithole, African Nationalism, Ch 5-6 (D2L)
French "Loi Cadre" (D2L)
Meredith: *The Fate of Africa*, pp. 93-115 (D2L)

June 5: Meredith: *The Fate of Africa*, pp. 162-192 (D2L)
Paper #2 Due in Class

FINAL EXAM THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 11:45-2:00