

## HIS 617 Modern European Imperialism and Colonialism Seminar

Kenneth J. Orosz

Fall 2023

Class Meetings:

TR 1:40-2:55 Bacon 214A

Office Hours: Wed. 10:00-12:00

And by appointment

Office: Cassety 337

Telephone: 878-3203

E-mail: oroszkj@buffalostate.edu

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar explores modern European imperialism in Africa and Asia. During the first half of the seminar we will examine in detail current as well as classic theories of imperialism. The remainder of the course will be devoted to readings that highlight some of the current areas of historical enquiry within the field of modern European imperialism, including education, gender, race, culture, missionary activities, and decolonization.

### COURSE POLICIES

1. Students must complete all work on their own. There are no group projects.
2. **The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is strictly forbidden and will be considered cheating since it is a computer, rather than the student, completing assignments. As with other cases of academic misconduct, the minimum penalty will be an F on the assignment.**
3. Except for cases of documented emergencies, I do not accept late work without prior arrangement. It is your responsibility to keep track of what is due each week by checking the syllabus.

### CLASS FORMAT

Since this class has been scheduled to meet in conjunction with my undergraduate course we will not be able to follow the usual graduate seminar format of meeting once per week for detailed of the assigned readings. Instead, you will be attending weekly undergraduate lectures for background content; while you will have access to all of the other components of the undergraduate course, your readings and assignments are spelled out on the graduate syllabus. In place of in class discussions, your assessment of the weekly readings will take place via a series of written précis (see below).

### REQUIREMENTS

Academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to do your work for you) will not be tolerated. Buffalo State College policies on academic misconduct, including the possible use of textual similarity detection software, are outlined in the college catalog.<sup>1</sup> **Please note that the minimum penalty for cases of academic misconduct will be an F on the assignment.**

Please note that in order to pass this course you must make a good faith attempt to complete all components and requirements. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR ARRANGEMENT.** Incompletes will be granted at the sole discretion of the instructor and require a written application outlining the rationale behind granting the incomplete, a list of outstanding

---

<sup>1</sup>Buffalo State University, *Graduate Catalog 2023-2024*, [Academic Misconduct](#)

assignments and a timetable for their completion. This application must be signed and, if granted, will constitute a formal contract for the completion of the course.

Readings, which include required texts as well as supplementary readings, are to be completed by the dates listed on the syllabus. Any reading listed on the syllabus that does not come from a required textbook is either a website or has been posted to Brightspace. They can be accessed in one of 3 ways: 1) If it is a website, there will be a link to it from the electronic version of the syllabus available in Brightspace or at <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/oroszkj>. Please note that Alice Conklin's *European Imperialism* reader, Masani's *Indian Tales of the Raj*, and Boahen's *African Perspectives on Colonialism* are all available online from the Internet Archive Library; to read it, you must first create an account and then check out the book. 2) Materials highlighted in blue have been uploaded to weekly folders in the Supplemental Readings section of Brightspace. A) If the item is a PDF, simply click on it to open and read. B) If it is a PowerPoint, click the down arrow next to the file name and select download from the menu (files are large, so do on WiFi only). Navigate to your download folder and open the file. Follow the directions on the first slide to get it to play.

All written assignments must conform to the broad stylistic guidelines outlined in the [History Style Sheet](#). When it comes to citation and bibliography formats, Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Thesis and Dissertations* 8<sup>th</sup> ed. is the bible for historians. The rules spelled out in her manual are simple and easy to understand. Come see me if you have questions regarding citation format, presentation of quotations, or other writing concerns.

## SUBMITTING PAPERS

1. Dropboxes for each assignment will appear in the Assignments section of the Course Activities tab. You must upload your paper as a word document (.doc or .docx only) to the Turnitin dropbox by **3:00 PM** on the due date.
2. You must bring a printed and stapled copy and turn it in during class time on the due date. **I will not grade any papers that have not been submitted to the dropbox and for which I do not also have a paper copy.**

Note: You may submit revisions of your paper up until the due date. Among the things you should check is the Turnitin Originality Report to help guard against plagiarism. To see the report click on the colored rectangular icon next to your submission. If the icon is gray, your report is still being processed; check back within the next 24 hours.

50% **Précis:** Students will write **eight** 3-4 page précis analyzing weekly assigned texts. Each précis should identify the main thesis of the work(s) in question and outline the key arguments/pieces of evidence used in advancing that thesis. It may also include a description of the work's ideological orientation and its contributions to the larger historiography of imperialism. A précis thus provides its reader with a brief summary of a larger work. While the choice of which works to write your précis on are up to you, each précis is due in class on the Tuesday following the week the readings were assigned. Hence, if you are writing on Early British India, that précis would be due in class on September 12.

50% **Historiographical Essay:** Students will write a 20 page historiographical essay on a topic you have chosen that is germane to the course. These essays should analyze the evolution of historical thinking on your chosen topic, identifying key historical camps and their arguments, shifts in interpretation, methodologies, and sources. Topics must be chosen by **October 5**

with a preliminary bibliography to follow by **October 24**. The essay itself is due in class on **December 14**.

**Books:** The following books are required reading and are available in the bookstore:

H. V. Bowen, <i>The Business of Empire</i>	978-0-521-08982-1
J. P. Daughton, <i>An Empire Divided</i>	978-0-195-37401-8
Mark Dunn, <i>The Convict Valley</i>	978-1-760-52864-5
Bernard Porter, <i>The Absent Minded Imperialists</i>	978-0-199-29959-1
Steven Press, <i>Rogue Empires</i>	978-0-674-97185-1
Mike Vann, <i>The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt</i>	978-0-190-60269-7
Lora Wildenthal, <i>German Women for Empire</i>	978-0-822-32819-3

### August 29-31                      Theories of Empire

[Course Introduction PowerPoint](#)

[Alice Conklin and Ian Fletcher \(eds\), \*European Imperialism 1830-1930\* \(Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999\), 14-21, 36-51](#)

[A. M. Eckstein "Is there a 'Hobson-Lenin Thesis' on late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Colonial Expansion?" \*Economic History Review\* 2<sup>nd</sup> series, 44, 2 \(May 1991\): 297-318](#)

[John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," \*Economic History Review\* 2<sup>nd</sup> series, 6, 1 \(1953\): 1-15](#)

[John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, "The Partition of Africa," in \*Imperialism: The Robinson and Gallagher Controversy\*, ed. Wm. Roger Louis \(New York: New Viewpoints, 1976\), 73-127.](#)

[P.M. Kennedy, "Has the 'Manipulated Social Imperialism' Been Antedated?" \*Past and Present\* no. 54 \(February 1972\) 134-141](#)

### September 5-7                      Early British India

Bowen, *The Business of Empire*

### September 12-14                  Australia                      No in Person Class either day

[Australia I: Botany Bay;](#)    [Australia II: Emigration and Self Government](#)

[New Zealand I: Treaty of Wataing;](#)    [New Zealand II: Settlement, Growth & War](#)

Dunn, *Convict Valley*

### September 19-21                  Opium Wars and Japanese Exception

[Glenn Melancon, "Honour in Opium? The British Declaration of War on China, 1839-1840." \*The International History Review\* 21, no. 4 \(1999\): 855-74](#)

[Joyce Madancy, "Unearthing Popular Attitudes toward the Opium Trade and Opium Suppression in Late Qing and Early Republican Fujian." \*Modern China\* 27, no. 4 \(2001\): 436-83.](#)

[Robert Eskildsen, "Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan's 1874 Expedition to Taiwan." \*The American Historical Review\* 107, no. 2 \(2002\): 388-418](#)

[John P. Tang, "Railroad Expansion and Industrialization: Evidence from Meiji Japan." \*The Journal of Economic History\* 74, no. 3 \(2014\): 863-86](#)

**September 26-28      Indonesia and Malaysia**

Alex Middleton, "Rajah Brooke and the Victorians," *The Historical Journal* 53, no. 2 (2010): 381–400.

Charles Hirschman, "The Making of Race in Colonial Malaya: Political Economy and Racial Ideology." *Sociological Forum* 1, no. 2 (1986): 330–61.

Farish A. Noor, Farish A. "Caught in the Eye of Empire: Stamford Raffles' 1814 Java Regulations." In *Data-Gathering in Colonial Southeast Asia 1800-1900: Framing the Other*, 23–68. Amsterdam University Press, 2020

Arnout van der Meer, "Setting the Stage: The Javanization of Colonial Authority in the Nineteenth Century." In *Performing Power: Cultural Hegemony, Identity, and Resistance in Colonial Indonesia*, 19–47. Cornell University Press, 2020

Albert Schrauwers, "The 'Benevolent' Colonies of Johannes van Den Bosch: Continuities in the Administration of Poverty in the Netherlands and Indonesia." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 43, no. 2 (2001): 298–328.

**October 3-5              Scramble for Africa**

*Press, Rogue Empires*

**October 10-12        La France Outre-Mer**

*Vann, The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt*

**October 17-19        The Belgian Congo**

Jean Muteba Rahier, "The Ghost of Leopold II: The Belgian Royal Museum of Central Africa and Its Dusty Colonialist Exhibition." *Research in African Literatures* 34, no. 1 (2003): 58–84.

Matthew G. Stanard, "Selling the Empire between the Wars: Colonial Expositions in Belgium, 1920-1940." *French Colonial History* 6 (2005): 159–78.

John Hillman, "Chartered Companies and the Development of the Tin Industry in Belgian Africa, 1900-1939." *African Economic History*, no. 25 (1997): 149–73.

Víctor Fernández Soriano, "'Travail et Progrès': Obligatory 'Educational' Labour in the Belgian Congo, 1933–60." *Journal of Contemporary History* 53, no. 2 (2018): 292–314.

**October 24-26        Missionaries and Imperialism**

*Daughton, An Empire Divided*

**Oct 31-November 2   Indigenous Peoples**

[Zareer Masani, \*Indian Tales of the Raj\* \(Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987\)](#)

[A. Adu Boahen, \*African Perspectives on Colonialism\* \(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987\)](#)

November 7-9 **Race, Gender and Empire**

Wildenthal, *German Women for Empire*

Margaret Strobel, "Gender, Race and Empire in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Africa and Asia," in *Becoming Visible* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., ed. Renate Bridenthal et al (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998), 389-414

November 14-16 **Empire and Culture**

Bernard Porter, *The Absent Minded Imperialists*

Bernard Porter, "Further Thoughts on Imperial Absent Mindedness," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 36, 1 (March 2008): 101-118

John Mackenzie, "Comfort and Conviction: A Response to Bernard Porter," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 36, 4 (December 2008): 659-668

November 21-23 **Education and Imperialism**

Catherine Hall, "Making Colonial Subjects: Education in the Age of Empire," *History of Education* 37, 6 (November 2008): 773-787

Satadru Sen "The Politics of Deracination: Empire, Education and Elite Children in Colonial India," *Studies in History* 19, 1 (February 2003): 19-39

Bob White, "Talk about School: Education and the Colonial Project in French and British Africa (1860-1960)" *Comparative Education* 32, 1 (March 1996): 9-25

Stafford Kay "African Roles, Response and Initiatives in Colonial Education: The Case of Western Kenya," *Paedagogica Historica* 16, 2 (1976): 272-293

Gail Kelly, "Learning to Be Marginal: Schooling in Inter-war French West Africa," *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 21, 3-4 (1986): 171-184

November 28-30 **World Wars and Empire**

WW II in Asia PowerPoint;

Kenneth J. Orosz "The Dwarf, the Goetzen and C. S. Forester's African Queen: A Reassessment of Naval Operations in First World War Africa," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 44:4 (2016), 592-621

Melvin Page, "The War of Thangata. Nyasaland and the East African Campaign, 1914-1918," *Journal of African History* 19/1 (1978), pp. 87-100

Christian Koller, "The recruitment of colonial troops in Africa and Asia and their deployment in Europe during the First World War," *Immigrants and Minorities* 26/1-2, (2008): . 111-133

Adrienne M. Israel, "Measuring the War Experience: Ghanaian Soldiers in World War II." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 25, no. 1 (1987): 159-68.

John H. Morrow, "Black Africans in World War II: The Soldiers' Stories." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 632 (2010): 12-25

C.A. Bayly, "'The Nation Within': British India at War 1939-1947" in *Proceedings of the British Academy* v. 125, edited by P. J. Marshall (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 265-285

**December 5-7            Decolonization**

[Andrew Smith and Chris Jeppsen \(eds\), \*Britain, France and the Decolonization of Africa\* \(London: University College London Press, 2017\)](#)

**December 14            Historiography papers due**