

HIS 640/HIS 645 Gender, Sexuality and Imperialism

Kenneth J. Orosz

Fall 2021

Class Meetings:

Online synchronous 4:30-7:15

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00

Wed. 10:00-12:00

Office: Cassety 337

Telephone: 878-3203

E-mail: oroszkj@buffalostate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the role and impact of western and indigenous women in colonial societies. Topics include the Destructive Female and Black Peril myths, miscegenation, constructions of gender and sexuality and their uses, women as agents of political, social and cultural reform/reaction, and women in anti-colonial resistance movements.¹

CLASS MEETINGS

Class meetings will take place online in a synchronous (live) fashion using Blackboard Collaborate. To access class, open the course Blackboard site and click on the Blackboard Collaborate link on the left side of the course menu; next click on the "Course Room" tab and then click on "Join Session."

Since this is a discussion driven seminar, your active participation is mandatory. That means in turn that you will need to ensure that your connection is strong enough to support both audio and video feed.

OFFICE HOURS

Given the need for social distancing amidst the pandemic, I strongly urge you to take advantage of virtual, rather than in person, office hours. To take advantage of virtual office hours simply call or email me Thursdays 3:00-4:00 or Wednesday 10:00-12:00. We will be using Blackboard Collaborate. To access virtual office hours, after you have contacted me to let me know that you are waiting open our course Blackboard site and click on the Blackboard Collaborate link on the left side of the course menu; next click on the "Course Room" tab and then click on "Join Session."

COVID PROTOCOLS

For up-to-date information on campus requirements regarding COVID-19 see the Buffalo State Coronavirus [website](#).

SUBMITTING PAPERS

Go to the Content tab and open the relevant weekly folder where you will find dropboxes for each assignment due on that date. Open the dropbox and upload your work.

¹ Learning Outcomes: Student Students will demonstrate via class discussion and written papers broad knowledge of the main themes, key texts and historiographical trends in the sub-fields of women, gender, sexuality and imperialism. They will critically evaluate: the "Destructive Female" and "Black Peril" myths as triggers for colonial tensions and eventual loss of empire; the colonial cult of domesticity; views on miscegenation and eugenics; efforts to import western culture into the periphery. Students will assess, analyze and explain how gender was constructed as justification for imperialism, racial inequality, and colonial policy making as well as the use and meaning of gendered approaches to colonial education, medical policy, and missionary activity. Finally, students will compare and contrast the use and meaning of Empire as a venue for sexual experimentation and exploitation across colonial empires as well as the experience of western and indigenous women as agents in generating and reforming colonial politics, society and culture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Academic misconduct (including cheating and plagiarism) 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. **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 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.

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* 8th 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.

At the post-graduate level grades are based on mastery of content, methodology, and presentation, regardless of how hard you feel you worked on an assignment. Grades will be computed as follows:

- 30% **Discussion:** Regular attendance and active participation in weekly class discussions is required. As part of their discussion grade, all students will be required to prepare and lead at least one class discussion of the assigned readings. These readings, which are to be completed by the dates given, include required texts, journal articles, and selected book chapters. Most journal articles can be accessed through the library's electronic databases; highlighted readings are available in Blackboard under the Content tab.
- 20% **Précis:** Students will write **eight** 2-3 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 day that the work in question is scheduled for discussion. Hence, if you are writing on Hyam, that précis would be due in class on September 9.
- 50% **Historiographical Essay:** Students will write a 20 page historiographical essay on a self-chosen topic 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, sources. Topics must be chosen by

October 7 with a preliminary bibliography to follow by **October 21**. The essay itself is due in class on **December 9**.

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

Janice Boddy, <i>Civilizing Women: British Crusades in Sudan</i>	978-0-691-12305-9
Antoinette Burton, <i>Burdens of History</i>	978-0-807-84471-7
Ronald Hyam, <i>Empire and Sexuality</i>	978-0-719-02505-1
Matera, Bastian and Kent, <i>Women's War of 1929</i>	978-1-349-33796-5
Sarah Zimmerman, <i>Militarizing Marriage</i>	978-0-821-42447-6

Recommended background reading

James Lehning, <i>European Colonialism Since 1700</i>	978-0-521-74171-2
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SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Supplemental readings are available in Blackboard under the Content tab. Some are PDFs, some are weblinks to ebooks available through the campus library.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 2 **Introduction and Imperialism Overview**

James Lehning, *European Colonialism since 1700* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

September 9 **Women and Downfall of empire**

Ronald Hyam, *Empire and Sexuality* (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 1992).

M.T. Berger, "Imperialism and Sexual Exploitation: A Review Article," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 17,1 (October 1988): 83-89.

Ronald Hyam, "Imperialism and Sexual Exploitation: A Reply," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 17, 1 (October 1988): 90-98.

September 16 **Constructing Gender**

Mrinilinha Sinha, *Colonial Masculinity*. (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1995). [[available online](#) through ACLS database]

Catherine Hall, "Of Gender and Empire: Reflections on the 19th Century," in *Gender and Empire*, ed. Philippa Levine (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 46-76.

Durba Ghosh, "Gender and Colonialism: Expansion or Marginalization?" *Historical Journal* 47, No. 3 (September 2004): 737-755

Frank Proschan, "Eunuch Mandarins, Soldats Mamzelles, Effeminate Boys, and Graceless Women: French Colonial Constructions of Vietnamese Genders," *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 8, 4 (2002): 435-467.

Daniel J. Walther, "Gender Construction and Settler Colonialism in German Southwest Africa, 1894-1914" *The Historian*, 66, No. 1 (Spring 2004): 1-18.

Keith Breckenridge, "The Allure of Violence: Men, Race and Masculinity in the South

African Goldmines 1900-1950," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24, 4 (December 1998): 669-693.

September 23 **Imperialism and Sexual Opportunity**

- Mrinilini Sinha, "Chathams, Pitts and Gladstones in Petticoats," in *Western Women and Imperialism*, ed. Nupur Chaudhuri and Margaret Strobel, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992), 98-118. [[available online](#) through ACLS database]
- Jeremy Rich, "Une Babylone Noire: Interracial Unions in Colonial Libreville, c. 1860-1914," *French Colonial History* 4 (2003): 145-169.
- Philippa Levine, "A Multitude of Unchaste Women: Prostitution in the British Empire," *Journal of Women's History* 15, 4 (2004) 159-163.
- Richard Philips, "Imperialism and the Regulation of Sexuality: Colonial Legislation on Contagious Diseases and Ages of Consent," *Journal of Historical Geography* 28, 3 (July 2002): 339-362.
- Mike Vann, "Sex and the Colonial City," *Journal of World History*, 28, No. 3/4 (December 2017), pp. 395-435.
- Ulrike Schaper, "Sex Drives, Bride Prices and Divorces: Legal Policy Concerning Gender Relations in German Cameroon, 1884-1916," in *Gender History in a Transnational Perspective*, edited by Oliver Janz, Daniel Schönpflug (New York: Berghahn Books, 2014), 243-269.
- Daniel Walther, "Sex, Race and Empire: White Male Sexuality and the "Other" in Germany's Colonies, 1894-1914," *German Studies Review* 33, No. 1 (February 2010): 45-71

September 30 **The "Black Peril"**

- David M. Anderson, "Sexual Threat and Settler Society: "Black Perils" in Kenya, c. 1907-1930," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 38, 1 (March 2010): 47-74.
- Pamela Scully, "Rape, Race and Culture: The Sexual Politics of Identity in the 19th Century Cape Colony, South Africa," *American Historical Review* 100, 2 (April 1995): 335-359.
- Krista O'Donnell, "Poisonous Women: Sexual Danger, Illicit Violence and Domestic Work in German Southern Africa, 1904-1915," *Journal of Women's History* 11, 3 (Autumn 1999): 31-54.
- Rebekka Habermas, "Lost in Translation: Transfer and Nontransfer in the Atakpame Colonial Scandal," *Journal of Modern History* 86, No. 1 (March 2014): 47-80.
- Erin Ford Cozens, " "Our Particular Abhorrence of These Particular Crimes": Sexual Violence and Colonial Legal Discourse in Aotearoa / New Zealand, 1840-1855," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 24, No. 3 (September 2015): 378-401.
- Carina Ray, "Decrying White Peril: Interracial Sex and the Rise of Anticolonial Nationalism in the Gold Coast," *American Historical Review* 119, No. 1 (February 2014): 78-110.

October 7 **Imperialism and Homosexuality**

- Ross Forman, "Randy on the Rand: Portuguese African Labor and the Discourse on 'Unnatural Vice' in the Transvaal in the early 20th Century," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 11, 4 (October 2002): 570-609.
- Hike Schmidt, "Colonial Intimacy: the Rechenberg Scandal and Homosexuality in German East Africa," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17, 1 (January 2008): 25-59.
- Daniel J. Walther, "Racializing Sex: Same-Sex Relations, German Colonial Authority and Deutschtum" *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17, 1 (January 2008): 11-24.
- Jeremy Rich, "Torture, Homosexuality, and Masculinities in French Central Africa: The Faucher-d' Alexis Affair of 1884," *Historical Reflections / Réflexions Historiques*, 36, No. 2, (Summer 2010): 7-23.
- Robert Aldrich, "Homosexuality in the French Colonies," *Journal of Homosexuality*, 41, no 3-4, (2002): 201-218.
- Frank Proschan, "Syphilis, Opiumania and Pederasty: Colonial Constructions of Vietnamese (and French) Social Diseases," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 11, 4 (October 2002): 610-636.
- Claire Lowrie, "White masters and their Chinese 'houseboys': masculinity, sexuality and racial anxiety in the home, 1880s–1930s" in *Masters and servants: Cultures of empire in the tropics* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016), 71-102.

October 14 **Female Explorers and Travelers**

- Susan Blake, "A Woman's Trek: What Difference does Gender Make?" in *Western Women and Imperialism*, ed. Chaudhuri and Strobel, 19-34. [[available online](#) through ACLS database]
- Mervat Hatem, "Through Each Other's Eyes: the Impact on the Colonial Encounter of the Images of Egyptian, Levantine-Egyptian and European Women (1862-1920)" in *Western Women and Imperialism*, ed. Chaudhuri and Strobel, 35-60. [[available online](#) through ACLS database]
- Julia Clancy-Smith, "The Passionate Nomad Reconsidered," in *Western Women and Imperialism*, ed. Chaudhuri and Strobel, 61-78. [[available online](#) through ACLS database]
- Jennifer Anne Boittin, "Adventurers and Agents Provocateurs: A German Woman Traveling through French West Africa in the Shadow of War," *Historical Reflections / Réflexions Historiques*, 40, No. 1 (Spring 2014): 111-131.
- Jessica Howell, "'Climate Proof': Mary Kingsley and the Health of Women Travelers," in *Exploring Victorian Travel Literature* (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2016), 109-136.
- Edward A. Tiryakian, "White Women in Darkest Africa: Marginals as Observers in No-Woman's Land," *Civilizations* 41, No. 1/2, MELANGES PIERRE SALMON: II. Histoire et ethnologie africaines (1993): 209-238.
- Laura Godsoe, "Exploring their Boundaries: Gender and Citizenship in Women's Travel Writing, 1880-1914" *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History* 37

(2009): 221-231. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.0642292.0037.015>

October 21 **Colonial Wives, Administrators and Agents**

- Helen Callaway and Dorthy Helly, "Crusader for Empire," Chaudhuri and Strobel, *Western Women and Imperialism*, 79-97. [[available online](#) through ACLS database].
- Barbara Ramusack, "Cultural Missionaries, Maternal Imperialists and Feminist Allies," in Chaudhuri and Strobel, *Western Women and Imperialism*, 119-136. [[available online](#) through ACLS database].
- Dea Birkett, "The 'White Woman's Burden' in the 'White Man's Grave,'" in Chaudhuri and Strobel, *Western Women and Imperialism*, 177-190. [[available online](#) through ACLS database].
- Nupur Chaudhuri, "Shawls, Jewelry, Curry and Rice in Victorian Britain," in Chaudhuri and Strobel, *Western Women and Imperialism*, 231-246. [[available online](#) through ACLS database].
- Janice Brownfoot, "Memsahibs in Colonial Malaysia: A Study of European Wives in a British Colony and Protectorate, 1900-1916," in *The Incorporated Wife* ed, Hillary Callan and Shirley Ardener (London: Croom Helm, 1984), 186-210.
- Verity G. McInnis, "Indirect Agents of Empire: Army Officers' Wives in British India and the American West, 1830-1875," *Pacific Historical Review* 83, No. 3 (August, 2014): 378-409.
- Deanne van Tol, "The Women of Kenya Speak: Imperial Activism and Settler Society, c.1930," *Journal of British Studies* 54, No. 2 (April 2015): 433-456

October 28 **Indigenous Women and Imperialism**

- Sarah Zimmerman, *Militarizing Marriage* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2020).
- Padma Anagol, "Indian Christian Women and Indigenous Feminism c. 1850-c.1920," in *Gender and Imperialism*, ed. Clare Midgley (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1998), 79-103.
- Michelle Moyd, "Making the Household, Making the State: Colonial Military Communities and Labor in German East Africa," *International Labor and Working-Class History* No. 80 (Fall 2011): 53-76

November 4 **Female Emigration**

- Lisa Chilton, *Agents of Empire : British Female Migration to Canada and Australia, 1860-1930* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007). [Available [online](#) thru Proquest e-book]
- Marie-Paule Ha, "La Femme Française aux Colonies: Promoting Colonial Female Emigration at the Turn of the Century" *French Colonial History* 6 (2005) 205-224.

November 11 **Domesticity and Imperialism**

- Micheline Lessard, "Civilizing Women: French Colonial Perceptions of Vietnamese Womanhood and Motherhood" in *Women and the Colonial Gaze*, ed Tamara Hunt and Micheline Lessard, (NYU Press, 2002), 148-161.
- Samuel Thomas, "Transforming the Gospel of Domesticity: Luhya Girls and the Friends Africa Mission, 1917-1926," *African Studies Review* 43, 2 (September 2000): 1-28.
- Susan Zlotnick, "Domesticating Imperialism: Curry and Cookbooks in Victorian England," *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 16, 2-3 (1996): 51-68.
- Nancy Rose Hunt, "'Le Bebe en Brousse': European Women, African Birth Spacing, and Colonial Intervention in Breast Feeding in Belgian Congo," *International Journal of African historical Studies* 21, 3 (1988): 401-432.
- Kathleen Sheldon, "I Studied with the Nuns, Learning to Make Blouses: Gender Ideology and Colonial Education in Mozambique," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 31, 3 (1998): 595-925.
- Deborah Gaitskell, "Housewives, Maids or Mothers: Some Contradictions of Domesticity for Christian Women in Johannesburg, 1903-1939," *Journal of African History* 24, 2 (1983): 241-256.

November 18 **Missions, Reform and Cultural Imperialism**

- Janice Boddy, *Civilizing Women: British Crusades in Colonial Sudan* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), Available [online](#) on chapter by chapter basis through JSTOR.
- Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India," *Cultural Critique* 7 (fall 1987): 119-156
- Rita Smith Kipp, "Emancipating Each Other: Dutch Colonial Missionaries' Encounter with Karo Women in Sumatra 1900-1942," in Clancy-Smith and Gouda, *Domesticating the Empire*, 211-235.
- Clare Midgley, "Can Women Be Missionaries? Envisioning Female Agency in the Early Nineteenth-Century British Empire," *Journal of British Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (April 2006), pp. 335-358

November 25 **No class - Thanksgiving Break**

December 2 **Feminism and Imperialism**

- Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994).
- Clare Midgley, "Anti-Slavery and the Roots of Imperial Feminism," in *Gender and Imperialism*, ed. Clare Midgley (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1998), 161-179.
- Barbara Bush, "'Britain's Conscience on Africa': White Women, Race and Imperial politics in inter-war Britain," in *Gender and Imperialism*, ed. Clare Midgley (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1998), 200-223.

December 9 **Women, Gender and anti-Colonial Resistance**

Matera, Bastian and Kent, *The Women's War of 1929* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

Suruchi Thapar-Bjorket, "The Domestic Sphere as a Political Site: A Study of Women in the Indian Nationalist Movement," *Women's Studies International Forum* 20, 4 (July 1997) 493-515.

Frances Gouda, "Militant Masculinity and Female Agency in Indonesian Nationalism, 1945-1949," in *Colonialism and the Modern World*, ed. Gregory Blue, Martin Bunton and Ralph Croizier (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2002), 200-216.

Historiographical Essay Due