

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

HIST-UA9198L01

Modern Imperialism: 19th and 20th Centuries

NYU London: Fall 2022

Instructor Information

- Katherine Connelly
- Office Hours: by appointment

Instruction Mode: In-person

Course Details

- Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.00-5.15pm
- Location: Room 303

Course Description

This course explores modern imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with particular emphasis on the British empire. It explores different interpretations of what 'modern imperialism' is, examining the interaction of empire with the economy, society and culture in the metropole and colonies over a period of two centuries. The course combines lectures, guest lectures from leading experts, class discussions, museum and site visits. Throughout we will consider different methods of researching and analysing empire and reflect on the responsibilities of historians.

Course Objectives

- To understand how the nature of imperialism changed over the period of two centuries, over different locations and in response to different conditions.
- To evaluate the motivations behind and implications of different interpretations of 'modern imperialism'.
- To analyse relevant primary sources.
- To engage with the historiographical debates about the nature of imperialism.

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Assessment Components

Assignments / Activities	Description of Assignment	% of Final Grade	Due
Class participation	This grade assesses contributions to class discussions, engagement with other students, engagement with class trips.	10%	
Presentation	Students will introduce the required reading for class. They will relate it to a trip made to a relevant site of historical importance.	30%	
Primary source analysis	A 1,000 word written analysis of one primary source.	20%	
Final essay	A 2,000 word essay answering one question from a choice provided by the lecturer. Students may design their own question in consultation with the lecturer.	40%	

Assessment Expectations

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Description
A-range	A = 93-100% A- = 90-92%	Exceptional level of accurate, clear and analytical writing. Exceptional level of relevant research and wider reading. Well referenced throughout.
B-range	B+ = 87-89% B = 84-86% B- = 80-83%	Very good level of written work; sufficient analysis. Well researched and referenced.

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Description
C-range	C+ = 77-79% C = 74-76% C- = 70-73%	Satisfactory and sufficiently accurate written work. Some evidence of research.
D-range	D+ = 67-69% D = 65-66%	Adequate, though uninspiring, levels of written work. Some evidence of research.
F	F = below 65%	Muddled thinking, poor presentation and inaccurate. Inadequate research.

Course Materials

Required Text(s) & Materials

- All required texts and materials will be provided by the lecturer.

Resources

- Access your course materials: [Brightspace](#)
- NYU London and Living in London Info: [LDN](#)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: [Bobst Library](#)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: [NYU Writing Center](#) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: [IT Help Desk](#)

Course Schedule

Topics & Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Thursday 1 September	Introduction: what is imperialism?		

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 2 Tuesday 6 September	Capitalism and imperialism <i>Class includes trip to the City of London (meet in classroom)</i>	Watch: Ferguson, 'Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World' episode 1: Why Britain? (2003) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moZN2UZ1k60 Rupprecht, 'Excessive Memories: Slavery, Insurance and Resistance' <i>History Workshop Journal</i> , (2007), pp.6-28	
Session 3 Thursday 8 September	Uprisings and abolition <i>Class includes trip to Cato Street (meet in classroom).</i>	Ramdin, 'Black Radicals and Black Women in Service' in <i>The Making of the Black Working Class in Britain</i> , pp.19-35	
Session 4 & 5 Friday 9 September	Legacies of British slavery <i>Visit to Museum of London Docklands and walk of Limehouse: London's first Chinatown. Meet at Canary Wharf DLR station.</i>	Watch: Olusoga, 'Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners: The Price Of Freedom' (2015) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgaJyp8ix4M	
Session 6 Tuesday 13 September	Free trade war	Newsinger, <i>The Blood Never Dried</i> , Chapter 3 'The Opium Wars', pp.48-64	
Session 7 Thursday 15 September	Free trade famine	Newsinger, <i>The Blood Never Dried</i> , Chapter 2 'The Irish famine', pp.33-47	

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 8 Tuesday 20 September	The New World: transportation and emigration. <i>Guided walk of transportation in the nineteenth century imagination, meet at Farringdon station</i>	'Convict Hulks' by Sydney Living Museum https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/convict-hulks	
Session 9 Thursday 22 September	Orientalism	Said, <i>Orientalism</i> , Introduction	
Session 10 Tuesday 27 September	1857: the uprising in India and its aftermath	Merritt, 'Public Perceptions of 1857' in Major and Bates (eds.), <i>Mutiny at the Margins</i> (2013), pp.1-24	
Session 11 Thursday 29 September	Guest lecture: Professor Hakim Adi on African and Caribbean people in Britain	Watch: Shabazz, 'Catch A Fire - Paul Bogle & the Morant Bay Rebellion' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vI9gmdEIA	
Session 12 Tuesday 4 October	Where is the heart of darkness? The Scramble for Africa	Griffiths, <i>The New Journalism, the New Imperialism and the Fiction of Empire</i> , Chapter 4 'A Scramble for Authority: Stanley, Conrad and the Congo', pp.122-154	
Session 13 Thursday 6 October	Eugenics, degeneration and the urban poor	Booth, <i>In Darkest England</i> , Introduction (1890)	
Session 14 Tuesday 11 October	Popular imperialism? The MacKenzie-Porter debate	Porter, <i>The Absent- Minded Imperialists</i> , Preface, (2006) vii-xvii	

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		MacKenzie, 'Comfort and Conviction', pp.659-668	
Session 15 Thursday 13 October	The Edwardian crises	Searle, 'The "Revolt from the Right" in Edwardian Britain' in Kennedy and Nicholls (eds.) <i>Nationalist and Racialist Movements in Britain and Germany Before 1914</i> (1986), pp.21-39	Primary source analysis due Monday 17 October
Session 16 Tuesday 18 October	1914: was war inevitable?	Gregory 'British "War Enthusiasm" in 1914: a Reassessment' in Braybon <i>Evidence, History and the Great War</i> (2003), pp.67-85 Luxemburg, <i>Reform or Revolution</i> , chapter 4 'Capitalism and the State' (1900) https://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1900/reform-revolution/ch04.htm	
Session 17 Thursday 20 October	Highest stage of capitalism? The revolutionary challenge	Pankhurst and Lynch on the Easter Rising https://www.marxists.org/archive/pankhurst-sylvia/1916/easter-week.htm Lenin 'Report Of The Commission On The National	

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

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		and The Colonial Questions' (1920) https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/jul/x03.htm#fw3	
Session 18 Tuesday 1 November	Re-drawing the map: western imperialism after World War One	Watch: Rees 'Palestine: Timeline' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q77_qJf_h8	Students to have chosen final essay topic and begun research.
Session 19 Thursday 3 November	Fascism <i>Class includes trip to Cable Street (meet in classroom).</i>	Buchanan, "The Dark Millions in the Colonies are Unavenged": Anti-Fascism and Anti-Imperialism in the 1930s', pp.1-21	
Session 20 Tuesday 8 November	Guest lecture: Tariq Ali on 'The cult of Churchill'	Ali, <i>Winston Churchill: His Times, His Crimes</i> (2022), Introduction pp.1-18	
Session 21 Thursday 10 November	The Second World War	Visit to the Imperial War Museum WW2 gallery.	
Session 22 Tuesday 15 November	The Cold War and the 'three majestic circles'	Churchill, 'Sinews of Peace' speech: https://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/sinews-of-peace-iron-curtain-speech.html	
Session 23 Thursday 17 November	Soviet tanks and historians on the British left	Saville, 'Edward Thompson, the Communist Party and 1956': https://www.marxists.org	

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		g/archive/saville/1994/x/x/eptompson.htm	
Session 24 Tuesday 22 November	India in 1947: independence and partition	Watch: 'The British Empire In Colour: A Tryst With Dynasty' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1FVINC03Kg	
Session 25 Tuesday 29 November	Kenya and Algeria: historians, the state and the truth.	Parry, 'Uncovering the brutal truth about the British Empire' https://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/aug/18/uncovering-truth-british-empire-caroline-elkins-mau-mau	
Session 26 Thursday 1 December	Windrush (1948- present)	Watch: Olusoga, 'The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files' (2019): https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00068sk/the-unwanted-the-secret-windrush-files	
Session 27 Tuesday 6 December	Northern Ireland: from 'the Troubles' to the protocol (1968- present)	Extract from <i>The Green Book</i> (1977)	
Session 28 Thursday 8 December	The New American Century?	Blair, 'Chicago speech' (1999): http://www.britishpoliticalspeech.org/speech-archive.htm?speech=279	Final essay due Friday 9 December

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Course Policies

Classroom Etiquette

It is preferred that students take notes with pen and paper rather than laptops. Exemptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center.

Final exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the London Academics team (nyul.academics@nyu.edu). Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Academic Honesty, Plagiarism and Late Work

Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the [University and school policies](#). You can find details on these topics and more on this section of our NYUL website (<https://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html>) and on the Policies and Procedures section of the NYU website for students studying away at global sites (<https://www.nyu.edu/academics/studying-abroad/upperclassmen-semester-academic-year-study-away/academic-resources/policies-and-procedures.html>).

Attendance

Key information on NYU London's absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found on our [website](#) (<http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html>)

To ensure the integrity of the academic experience, class attendance is required and expected promptly when class begins. These rules apply to class excursions and activities as well.

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations, but must follow NYU London's absence reporting procedure. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert)

You can edit your pronoun and name pronunciation information on your Albert account, making it visible for faculty and staff. Information on how to do this can be found on the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation web page](#).

Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community. For more information, including how to report an incident, visit the [Bias Response Line website](#).

Your Lecturer

Dr Katherine Connelly is a historian of Britain, France and the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is broadly interested in the history of empire, feminism, the city, radical social movements, political ideas and popular culture. Her first book, a political biography of the anti-imperialist suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst, was published by Pluto Press in 2013. She edited and introduced *A Suffragette in America: Reflections on Prisoners, Pickets and Political Change*, Sylvia Pankhurst's hitherto unpublished writing on race, gender and class in America, which was published in 2019. Kate's doctoral thesis examined Karl Marx's writings on the French Second Republic and his engagement with popular culture in Paris. She is currently writing on Marx's lumpenproletariat and the links between the American labour movement and the East London suffragettes.