History 334: Race and the British Empire
Tuesday, Thursday 2:15 – 4:05pm
Mears Cottage, Rm. 217
Fall 2007

Diana Shull, Instructor
shulld@grinnell.edu
Mears 214, x3304
Office Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 12:30-2:00; Wed. 11:00-12:00
Also by appointment.

This class will explore how ideologies of race and ethnicity affected the theories and practices of the British Empire. We will analyze the language, regulations, attitudes, and material products of those involved in consolidating, maintaining, and extending the Empire, both formally and informally. We will consider the beliefs and attitudes of various types of people, not only those “in charge” of the Empire, but also those “on the spot,” those living under colonial rule, and those persons living in Britain itself.

Key topics will be: 1) ideas of race, their change over time, and the different ways the British (such as colonial officials, white settlers, missionaries) deployed racial ideologies; 2) the rise of scientific and pseudo-scientific ideas about race during the 18th and 19th centuries; 3) the visual images of empire; and, 4) the legacies of the British Empire both for Britain and its former colonies. We will discuss these topics with common readings of secondary sources in the first section of the course. These readings are designed as a starting point for further research on these topics.

In addition to reading and analyzing secondary sources, we will discuss how to find, use, and write about primary sources. You will complete a series of assignments that will help you discover a topic, find primary and secondary sources, and organize your argument and evidence. In the second half of the course, you will write a major research paper (20 pages) on a topic of their choosing—ideally drawing upon the knowledge gained in the first half of the semester.

Course Requirements

If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the third floor of the JRC (x3702).

Class Participation (20%):
You must read the course materials before coming to class and participate actively in the discussions. Your participation grade is primarily based on your willingness to engage in class discussion in a constructive and consistent manner. You are also required to help lead class discussion twice during the semester. Sign up for class sessions will be in the second class, 4 September. You cannot participate in class discussion if you do not attend class.
Topic and Preliminary Research Exercise (5%): 11 September

Primary Source Exercise (10%): 20 September

Paper Proposal (10%): 27 September

Annotated Bibliography and Outline (10%): 1 November

Advanced Draft (15%): 29 November

Final Copy of Research Paper (30%): 18 December by 5pm in my office.

You must turn in a final draft of your paper in order to pass this class.

Schedule

I. Intellectual Approaches to Studying Race and the British Empire

Week 1:
30 August: Introduction
- Ania Loomba, Colonialism/Postcolonialism, pp. 91-153. (Handout)
- Sollors, “Ethnicity and Race,” in A Companion to Racial and Ethnic Studies, David Goldberg and John Solomos, eds., pp. 97-104. (Handout)

Week 2:
4 September: The Debate over Said’s Orientalism (Sign up for leading discussion)
- Edward Said, Orientalism, pp. 1-28. (R)
- David Cannadine, Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire, pp. xiii-24, 121-135. (R)

6 September: NO CLASS
- If you can, please attend Robert Richards’ talk, “Darwin’s Evolutionary Theology,” 4:15 to 6pm, JRC room 101.
II. The Origins of the British Empire and Changing Discourses of Race

Week 3:
11 September: The “New” World (Topic Exercise Due)

13 September: Ireland

Week 4:
18 September: Africa

20 September: Empire in the Metropole (Primary Source Exercise Due)
III. Scientific and Pseudo-Scientific Ideas about Race in the 18th and 19th Centuries  
Week 5:  
25 September: The Enlightenment through the Early 19th Century  

27 September: The Second Half of the 19th Century (Paper Proposal Due)  

IV. Visual Representations of Race and Empire  
Week 6:  
2 October: Cartoons and Advertising  

4 October: Film  
- We will watch *Sanders of the River* (1935) in class.  

V. The “New Imperialism” of the late 19th Century  
Week 7:  
9 October: India  

11 October: Africa  
VI. Race at the End of Empire and Beyond

Week 8:
16 October:

Weeks 8.5-15: Research, Writing, and Independent meetings

1 November: **Annotated Bibliography and Outline Due.**
   We will meet as a class during the regular time and discuss your research progress.

29 November: **Advanced Draft Due by 5pm in my office.**

18 December: **Final Draft Due by 5pm in my office.**