

*COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS*  
*RACE, VIOLENCE AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD*



**Course Convener**

Professor Anindita Ghosh  
N2.4, Samuel Alexander Building  
Email: [steven.pierce@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:steven.pierce@manchester.ac.uk)

**Course Content**

This course introduces students to the history of colonialism from the late eighteenth century onwards. It explores how colonies were fundamentally reshaped by changing ideologies of empire and power politics; how constructions of race, religion and gender were contested from above and below; how projects to control colonial spaces and bodies were transformed over time; and the role of violence in colonialism and its impact on post-colonial societies. Students will be introduced to a range of textual, visual and oral primary sources, historiographical debates drawn primarily from **Africa and South Asia**.

The weekly lecture topics will parallel chapters in the Phillipa Levine textbook, *The British Empire: from Sunrise to Sunset* (Longman, 2007) that serves to provide a basic narrative overview for the course. Lectures will offer case-studies, discussion of primary source analysis and coverage of key historiographical debates. The course will focus in particular on the following topics: **the Atlantic Slave trade; mercantile colonialism**; ideologies of empire in India; constructing race, gender and sexuality in Africa and India; The emergence of 'Africa'; Religious movements in Africa and India; contesting empires: violence and decolonisation; post-colonial legacies.

**Assessment**

Map quiz – 10%  
Source analysis presentation materials – 5 PowerPoint slides - 40%  
Essay - 3,000 words - 50%

Topics covered will include:

Colonialism and the Discipline of History

Colonial Encounters in India and Africa  
Slavery, Abolition, and Merchant Capitalism  
Political and Economic Change  
Ideologies and Fantasies of India and Africa: Race, Gender, and Difference  
Sexuality, Disease, and Family Life  
Violence, Non-violence, and Nationalism

The sequence of lectures will parallel chapters in the Levine textbook that serves to provide a basic narrative overview for the course. Lectures will provide case-studies, discussion of primary source analysis and coverage of key historiographical debates. Seminars will focus on comparing 3-4 key secondary sources on that week's lecture topic and present a related primary source as well.

#### INDICATIVE READINGS

1. Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset* (Pearson, 2007)
2. Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy* (Routledge: London, 1998), chapters 7-10
3. Richard Reid, *A History of Modern Africa* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008)
4. Christopher Bayly. *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914: Global Connections and Comparisons* [Blackwell, 2004]