

# HIST 21122

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



### Course Convener

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### 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 Philippa 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**

Online Map identification – 10%; Source analysis (PowerPoint Slides) - 30%; Essay - 3,000 words - 50%

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

Week 1. Introduction

### **Seminar – Introduction**

Week 2. The Atlantic Slave Trade:

### **Seminar - Slavery**

Week 3. Mercantile Colonialism:

### **Seminar – The East India Company**

Week 4. Colonial Ideologies in India:

### **Seminar – Constructing race**

Week 5. The Emergence of “Africa”:

### **Seminar – Imagining colonial Space**

Week 6. Colonial encounters: Africa:

### **Seminar - Religious movements**

Week 7. Colonial encounters: India:

### **Seminar - Colonial bodies**

Week 8. Gender and sexuality:

### **Seminar - Gender and sexuality**

Week 9. Contesting empire I:

### **Seminar - Violence**

Week 10. Contesting empire II:

### **Seminar - Development**

Week 11: Course Revision: AG

## **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]

## **TASTER AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL, COURSE SUBJECT RELATED:**

A History of the World in 100 objects presented on BBC Radio4 by Neil McGregor, former Director of the British Museum, available in 16 episodes. Listen to the last 3.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00nrtf5/episodes/player>

‘Should we be proud of the British Empire’, a debating panel on BBC One, The Big Questions, where Prof Ghosh appears as a panelist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xlu8-joChfo>