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# EMPIRE AND INDEPENDENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD

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HIST 400 – Fall 2015

Prof. David Campion  
Department of History

Class hours:  
MW 3:00-4:30  
Miller 319

## Course description

At the end of the Second World War much of the world was controlled, either directly or indirectly, by European overseas empires. The steady dismantling of these empires during the latter half of the twentieth century was one of the greatest political developments in modern history and it remains one of the most controversial. For many citizens of the colonizing states it represented a sad finale to their country's days as a world power, but for colonized peoples it was often the long-awaited day of national liberation and the first step into a hopeful but uncertain future as an independent nation. Yet the path from empire to independence varied greatly from one case to another. In some instances it was a peaceful and smooth transfer of power while in others it came only after bloody and chaotic conflict. Some newly independent states saw a strong and cohesive national identity emerge from (or perhaps despite) the colonial experience. However in others, the formerly colonized societies divided bitterly along ethnic, tribal, and religious lines. Many of the world's most seemingly intractable political problems in our own time have resulted from the process of decolonization.

This reading-intensive colloquium takes a comparative approach and focuses on the causes and consequences of decolonization, primarily in Africa and Asia. The study of decolonization is a relatively new and exciting field for historians, and this course will introduce students to some of the leading research as well as to postcolonial literature and critical theory. Course readings will be drawn from a wide range of historical scholarship and literature that addresses the political, cultural, social, economic and psychological dimensions of decolonization and its lessons and legacies in our own time.

## Course requirements

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** A reading colloquium can be a fascinating undertaking, but for this to happen it will require some effort. This means regular and punctual classroom attendance and consistent adherence to the schedule of assigned readings to keep up with and *actively* participate in discussions. If you must miss a class, you are required to notify the instructor in advance and in writing. **Any unexcused absence after the first two will reduce your final course grade by one third of a letter grade. Two late arrivals count as one absence. Being unprepared for class discussion will**

**also count as an unexcused absence.** Students are always encouraged to ask questions or continue discussions during office hours, and to go beyond the minimum course requirements as their imagination and intellect lead them. This is not a lecture course; as a reading colloquium, we are a relatively small group devoted to critical discussion of scholarly writing and historical problems. As such, your preparation and active participation in discussion is vital to the success of this course.

**BOOK REVIEWS:** Each week two students will lead the discussion on the assigned readings and related issues. In addition to leading the discussion, the two students will each submit a critical review (4-6 pages) of the readings assigned for that week. Each student must submit two reviews during the semester.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY:** At the end of the semester each student will complete a 16-20 page bibliographical essay focusing on a recurring theme in the course. The essay will be based on reading done for the course, but, if they wish, students may also incorporate any research or reading they have done elsewhere.

- *Assignments must be submitted on time. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, assignments will be reduced by one third of a letter grade for each day they are late. After five days, an assignment will not be accepted.*
- *All participants are reminded that we must show respect and courtesy to each other at all times and maintain an atmosphere in class that encourages participation by all and the free exchange of ideas and opinions.*
- *The Lewis & Clark College Policy on Academic Integrity is applicable to **all** assignments in this course. **Any** instances of cheating or plagiarism, however slight, on **any** assignment will result automatically in a failing grade for the course and referral to the College Honor Board for further disciplinary action.*

NOTE: If you have a disability that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office (x7191) and that office will notify me of the accommodation for which you are eligible.

### Method of evaluation

- Participation in discussion (50%)
- Book reviews (20%)
- Bibliographical essay (30%)

### Course learning outcomes

At the end of this course each student should be able to

- demonstrate an ability to read and analyze critically major interpretive works in history and other disciplines relating to the comparative study of decolonization.
- demonstrate awareness of the strengths and limitations of comparative history and of different research methodologies, scholarly traditions, theories, and points of view.
- engage effectively in and occasionally lead group discussions on themes and topics relating to the course readings.

Required readings (these are available for purchase at the Lewis & Clark Bookstore)

- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- David Anderson, *Histories of the Hanged: The Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire*
- Jordanna Bailkin, *The Afterlife of Empire*
- Nancy Clark & William Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism* and *The Wretched of the Earth*
- Ronald Hyam, *Britain's Declining Empire: The Road to Decolonisation, 1918-1968*
- Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*
- Mark Lawrence, *Assuming the Burden: Europe and the American Commitment to War in Vietnam*
- Christopher Lee (ed.) *Making a World after Empire: The Bandung Moment and its Political Afterlives*
- Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations*
- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonizing the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*
- Paul Scott, *Staying On*
- Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France*
- Peter Sluglett, *Britain in Iraq: Contriving King and Country*

Schedule of classes

**Week I: Introduction**

Aug 31: Introductory discussion

Sep 2: Lecture: Review of decolonization

- Reading:
- Martin Shipway, "Decolonization in comparative perspective" in *Decolonization and its Impact*, 1-17
  - Wm. Roger Louis, "The colonial empires in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" in *Ends of British Imperialism*, 35-48

**Week II: Indochina and the Creation of a Postcolonial Quagmire**

Sep 7: LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)

Sep 9: Discussion: Lawrence

Discussion Leaders:

- MELISSA
- DEAN

- Reading:
- Mark Lawrence, *Assuming the Burden*

**Week III: Independence and Partition in the Indian Subcontinent**

Sep 14: Discussion: Khan

Sep 16: Discussion: Khan

Discussion Leaders:

- JOHN D.
- PETE

- Reading:
- Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition*
  - Clement Attlee, "The end of British rule in India" (1947)
  - Winston Churchill, "Britain's shameful flight from India" (1947)
  - Jawaharlal Nehru, "A tryst with destiny" (1947)

Suggested film: *Earth* (1998)

**Week IV: Decolonization and the Modern Middle East**

Sep 21: Discussion: Sluglett

Sep 23: Discussion: Sluglett

Discussion Leaders:

- DRAKE
- NICK

- Readings:
- Peter Sluglett, *Britain in Iraq: Contriving King and Country*
  - Sir Henry McMahon, Letter to Sherif Hussein ibn Ali (1915)
  - Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)
  - T.E. Lawrence, Introduction and Chs. 1-2 in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (1922)
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**Week V: Algeria and France**

Sep 28: Discussion: Shepard, Fanon

Sep 30: Discussion: Shepard, Fanon

Discussion Leaders:

- JOHN D.
- RYAN

- Readings:
- Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*
  - Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*

Suggested film: *The Battle of Algiers* (1966)**Week VI: Algeria and France (cont.)**

Oct 5: Discussion: Shepard, Fanon

Oct 7: Discussion: Shepard, Fanon

Discussion Leaders:

- JOHN D.
- RYAN

- Readings:
- Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*
  - Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*
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**Week VII: Literature of Decolonization**

Oct 12: Discussion: Achebe

Oct 14: Discussion: Scott

Discussion Leaders:

- DEANE
- EMMA

- Readings:
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
  - Paul Scott, *Staying On*
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**Week VIII: Kenya's Colonial Emergency**

Oct 19: Discussion: Anderson

Oct 21: Discussion: Anderson

Discussion Leaders:

- JOHN M.
- DEAN

- Readings:
- David Anderson, *Histories of the Hanged*
  - Jomo Kenyatta, "The Kenya Africa Union is not the Mau Mau" (1952)
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**Week IX: The Wind of Change**

Oct 26: Discussion: Hyam

Oct 28: Discussion: Hyam

Discussion Leaders:

- RYAN
- LUKE

- Reading:
- Ronald Hyam, *Britain's Declining Empire*
  - Harold Macmillan, "The Wind of Change" (1960)

**Week X: Building a Postcolonial World**

Nov 2: Discussion: Lee

Nov 4: Discussion: Lee

Discussion Leaders:

- DRAKE
- EMMA

- Readings:
- Christopher Lee (ed.), *Making a World After Empire*
  - Sukarno, "Speech at the Opening of the Bandung Conference" (1955)
  - Jawaharlal Nehru, Speech to the Bandung Conference Political Committee (1955) and "Economic Development and Nonalignment" (1956)
  - Julius Nyerere, "Ujamaa: The Basis of African Socialism" (1962)
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**Week XI: South Africa's Colonial Legacy**

Nov 9: Discussion: Clark &amp; Worger

Nov 11: Discussion: Clark &amp; Worger, de Klerk, Mandela

Discussion Leaders:

- JOHN M.
- DEANE

- Readings:
- Nancy Clark & William Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*
  - Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1-51, 393-544
  - F. W. de Klerk, *The Last Trek, A New Beginning*, xv-xx, 1-33, 328-398
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**Week XII: Internationalism after Imperialism**

Nov 16: Discussion: Mazower

Nov 18: Discussion: Mazower

Discussion Leaders:

- LUKE
- PETE

- Reading:
- Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace*
  - UN declaration granting independence to colonial countries (1960)
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**Week XIII: Postcolonial Perspectives**

Nov 23: Discussion: Fanon, Ngũgĩ

Nov 25: Discussion: Fanon, Ngũgĩ

Discussion Leaders:

- MELISSA
- NICK

- Readings:
- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*
  - Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonizing the Mind*
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**Week XIV: The Empire comes Home**

Nov 30: Discussion: Bailkin, Rushdie

Dec 2: Discussion: Bailkin, Rushdie

Discussion Leaders:

- MELISSA
- RYAN

- Readings:
- Jordanna Bailkin, *The Afterlife of Empire*
  - Salman Rushdie, "The New Empire within Britain" in *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism*, 129-138

**Week XV: Conclusion**

Dec 7: Final Discussion

Dec 9: Final Discussion

- Reading:
- Dietmar Rothermund, “From colonialism to neocolonialism?” in *The Routledge Companion to Decolonization*, 258-275 [reserve]
  - Martin Shipway, “The impact of decolonization” in *Decolonization and its Impact*, 232-239 [reserve]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY DUE THURS DEC 10, 5:00 PM