Historical Methods: Decolonization in the Twentieth Century

Lori Watt, Instructor, Associate Professor, History and IAS
Washington University in St. Louis

Fall 2014
History (I.22) 301T / IAS (I.97) 301
Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Course Description:

How did people in colonial and imperial societies negotiate the end of colonial formations? What problems did people in former colonies face in their attempts to build post-colonial states? Through secondary sources we will seek to understand the international context of decolonization, especially the paradox of continued colonial rule in the midst of an international discourse of self-determination and universal human rights. We will also engage with some of the classic critiques of imperialism including selections by Lenin, Gandhi, Memmi, and Fanon. Our examination of the transformation from a world of empires and colonies into one of nation-states links us to the growing fields of global history and decolonization studies.

Course Goals:

The best senior theses and research papers in History make an argument, driven by primary sources and informed by relevant secondary sources, that analyzes change over time in the past. In this course we:

1. Use primary sources to make arguments about the past.
2. Evaluate how historians have used primary sources in making arguments about the past.
3. Learn about the global history of decolonization.

Required books, in the order that we will read them:


We will view one film on Thursday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.
*La battaglia di Algeri (The Battle of Algiers)*, Gillo Pontecorvo, dir., 1966, 121 min.
Requirements and Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ten short writing assignments</th>
<th>10 x 7% each = 70%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Best 6 of 8 reading quizzes</td>
<td>6 x 2% each = 12%</td>
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<td>Film screening report, due Friday, Nov 21 in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Final Paper, 3000 words, Friday, Dec 12, 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Date**  
**Topics, Reading Assignments, Other Information**

**Wed Aug 27**  
**Session 1**

*Introduction:* Reading Primary Sources; Decolonization

- In-class primary source exercise -- what are these four sources?
- **Handout:** Reading Primary and Secondary Sources
- **Handout:** Writing Assignment 1
- **Handout:** Overview, Plot, Actors, Vocabulary
- **Handout:** Syllabus

**Fri Aug 29**  
**Session 2**

*The Senior Thesis; Citing Sources, Overview of Writing Assignment 1*

**Reading Assignment:**
"Turabian and Chicago Styles Citations," 1-3
Prompt for Writing Assignment 1
Sources for Writing Assignment 1
  - Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776
  - The Bill of Rights ~ First Ten Amendments to the US Constitution, March 4, 1789
  - The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, August 26, 1789

For Discussion:
Evaluate Sung’s thesis using the criteria listed on "Reading Primary and Secondary Sources."
Evaluate the formatting of Sung's thesis Does it follow the Turabian and Chicago styles and "procedures for papers"?
Discuss the writing assignment and sources in preparation for Assignment 1

**Mon Sep 01**  
**Writing Assignment 1: Manifesto for Independence**

due 5:00 pm

**Wed Sep 03**  
**Session 3**

*Lenin's Critique of Imperialism*

**Practice Reading Quiz**

**Reading Assignment:**

**Fri Sep 05**  
**Session 4**

*No Class -- Instructor out of town. Optional makeup session / class dinner on Fri Nov 14*

**Mon Sep 08**  
**Writing Assignment 2: Colonialism in 1919.** For prompt, see Bb under Assignments
due 5:00 pm
Wed Sep 10  The Fourteen Points and the Charter of the League of Nations
Session 5

Reading Assignment:
Wilson's Fourteen Points
League of Nations Charter, selections
Hulbert, Homer B. "American Policy in the Cases of Korea and Belgium." New York Times, March 5, 1916
Sun Yat Sen, "The Popular Mind Depends of the Power of the Press," 1912
Sun Yat Sen, "Three Principles of the People," 1924

Fri Sep 12  The Wilsonian Moment, Part I
Session 6

Reading Quiz 1
Reading Assignment:

Mon Sep 15  Writing Assignment 3: Gandhi's Hind Swaraj
due 5:00 pm

Wed Sep 17  Gandhi's 1908 'Hind Swaraj' Indian Self-Rule.
Session 7

Reading Assignment:

In Class:
Discuss Hind Swaraj
Discuss why Duara's essay is useful for us
Link Hind Swaraj and Duara's analysis in meaningful ways

Fri Sep 19  The Wilsonian Moment, Parts II & III
Session 8

Reading Assignment:
Manela's Wilsonian Moment, 55-140: 159-225

Mon Sep 22  Writing Assignment 4: Four Freedoms, Atlantic Charter, Cairo, Potsdam
due 5:00 pm

Wed Sep 24  World War II and the International Context for Decolonization
Session 9

Reading Assignment:

Fri Sep 26  World War II and the International Context for Decolonization
Session 10

Reading Quiz 2
Reading Assignment:

Mon Sep 29  Writing Assignment 5: Charter of the United Nations and Human Rights
due 5:00 pm
Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Reading Assignment:
Charter of the United Nations • Introductory Note, Preamble, Chapters I-II (Articles 1-6).
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Institutions and Ideas for the Postwar: The United Nations and Human Rights

Reading Quiz 3
Reading Assignment:
Borgwardt's A New Deal for the World, 53-86; 142-195; 250-272; 285-300

Writing Assignment 6: Jan Smuts Views on the World
due 5:00 pm

An Advocate of Empire, A Look at Academic Integrity

Reading Assignment:
Selections from Jan Smuts' Papers
Readings on Academic Integrity


Reading Quiz 4
Reading Assignment:

Ideological Origins Chapter 1 Discussion Facilitator

Other Strands in the Ideological Origins of the United Nations

Reading Quiz 5
Reading Assignment: Mazower, Mark. No Enchanted Palace, 66-203

Ideological Origins Chapter 2 Discussion Facilitator

Ideological Origins Chapter 3 Discussion Facilitator

Ideological Origins Chapter 4 Discussion Facilitator

Fall Break -- No class meeting

Writing Assignment 7: Wavell and the End of Empire in India
due 5:00 pm

Decolonization in India

Reading Assignment
Fri Oct 24  
Partition

**Reading Quiz 6**

Reading Assignment:

Mon Oct 27  
**Writing Assignment 8: "Non-Self-Governing Territories" and Trusteeship**
due 5:00 pm

Wed Oct 29  
"Non-Self-Governing Territories" and Trusteeship

Reading Assignment:
United Nations Charter, Chapters 11-13 (Articles 73-91), on Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trusteeship
United Nations Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 1960

Fri Oct 31  
Understanding the Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trusteeship

**Reading Quiz 7**

Reading Assignment:
Lal and Kiste, eds. Pacific Places, Pacific Histories, 12-22

Imperialism at Bay Discussion Facilitator__________________________

Mon Nov 03  
**Writing Assignment 9: Governing Korea in Transition**
due 5:00 pm

Wed Nov 05  
The End of the War in Korea and the Postwar Settlement

Reading Assignment:
Photographs of 1945 Seoul from the National Archives

Fri Nov 07  
End of Empire in Korea

Reading Assignment:
Readers Reports
San Francisco Peace Treaty, Selections

Mon Nov 10  
**Writing Assignment 10: The Communist Manifesto and Anti-Colonialism**
due 5:00 pm

Wed Nov 12  
Communist Manifesto

Reading Assignment:
Fri Nov 14  
Session 24

Fanon and Memmi

**Reading Assignment:**
Selections from "On Violence" (1-62); "Colonial War and Mental Disorders" (181-233).

Fanon and Memmi Discussion Facilitator

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Fri Nov 14  
5:00-7:30

Optional Class Dinner / Makeup Session, Mai Lee Restaurant, 8396 Musick Memorial Dr

- Bring your WUSTL Metrolink Pass
- Meet at Big Bend Metrolink Station by 5:00 p.m.
- Take the train 4 stops towards Shrewsbury to Brentwood
- Alternatively, meet at Mai Lee at 5:20 (Everyone must be present for all of us to be seated.)

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Wed Nov 19  
Session 25

Algeria

**Reading Assignment:**

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Thu Nov 22  
7:00 p.m.

Special Screening: *La battaglia di Algeri* (The Battle of Algiers), Gillo Pontecorvo, dir. 121 minutes

Make sure to complete the screening report and bring it to discussion on Friday. I will collect them at the end of class.

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Fri Nov 21  
Session 26

Discussion of *La battaglia di Algeri* (The Battle of Algiers).

No assigned reading. Bring your screening report for discussion and to turn in at the end of class.

*The Battle of Algiers* Discussion Facilitator

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Wed Nov 26  
Fri Nov 28

THANKSGIVING

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Wed Dec 03  
Session 27

Decolonization in the 1960s

**Reading Assignment:**

*Afterlife of Empire* Part 1 Discussion Facilitator

"Post-Colonial Career and Development" Discussion Facilitator

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Fri Dec 05  
Session 28

*Afterlives of Empire*

**Reading Quiz 8**

**Reading Assignment:**
Bailkin, *Afterlife*, 132-241
Commercial media articles on the end of empire

*Afterlife of Empire* Part 2 Discussion Facilitator

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Fri Dec 12  
**Final Essay Due**
due 1:00 pm

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