

Course Syllabus
History 381 W. 01 CID: 3520
Spring 2008

British Empire and Commonwealth
Meeting T-Th, 11:00am-12:20pm.
AB4 303

(3 Credit Hours)
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Office Hours

M-W, 1-2pm.

T-Th, 1-2pm.

Class Description:

- Survey of the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth from its foundations in the history of ancient Britain to its legacy in the events and issues of the present time--Globalization, the Anglosphere, and the new American empire.
- The instructional method in class will involve lectures, discussions, and occasional videos or other visual presentations.
- There are no prerequisites.

Class Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be:

- Familiar not only with the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth, but with the impact of the Empire and Commonwealth on globalization,

modernization, and other major issues confronting the world today.

- able to understand the connections--*ie.* will be able to relate significant names, terms, dates, events, facts, movements, and developments in the history of the Empire and Commonwealth to each other and to the present situation.

Textbook:

Philippa Levine **The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset**

ATTENDANCE POLICY—S/2008

A. Regular classroom attendance is expected of students in this course. More than three absences during the semester will be considered excessive.

In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, the student is still responsible for the material covered.

The instructor is obligated to disseminate class information, materials, and instructions one time only. He cannot and will not recreate the lectures for tardy or absent students, nor is he obligated to loan, books, videotapes, or other materials to students.

B. The instructor will take roll at the beginning of each class period. Any person not in their seat will be counted absent.

C. No points will be given for attendance; no points will be deducted for excessive absences.

D. In order to receive credit for work done during the class period, the student must be in attendance during

the entire class period unless other arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

E. Regular (and wide awake) class attendance and the taking of a good set of lecture notes are critical to successful performance on the major examinations and quizzes in this course. (Class attendance will be recorded, as is required by university policy.) Outside of class study is equally important. At a bare minimum, students should expect to spend six to eight hours per week on outside of class assignments and preparation. If you know that you are a slow reader, or you know (or discover) that your reading vocabulary is too limited, then you should be prepared to spend such additional time as is necessary on the reading assignments.

Extra study time--however much is necessary for you to gain a thorough grasp of the material--may be required to prepare for quizzes and major examinations.

"Taking" a course implies doing the work required--in this case, reading the materials assigned and demonstrating that you have done so and have comprehended the materials through class discussion and performance on such exams and reports as are required. Be prepared to discuss the material assigned for any particular day--each student should expect to be called upon numerous times during the semester and to be judged in regard to his or her degree of preparation for that day.

F. It is the student's responsibility to drop a course. The professor cannot drop a student from the course.

Exams

There will be two major exams during the semester. The Mid-term and Final will cover the textbooks, readings, and the information presented in class.

All major exams will be worth 100 points.

It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the professor in order to make up work or exams missed for appropriate cause.

A documented, university approved excuse will be required as proof of such appropriate cause.

Make up exams may be different in content and form (*eg.* essays instead of multiple-choice questions) from the original exam.

If you leave the classroom during the taking of an exam, you must turn in your exam at that point. You will not be allowed to return and resume taking the exam.

No one who arrives late for an exam will be allowed to begin the exam after the first student to complete the exam has left the room.

Quizzes

There will be thirteen or more pop quizzes over lectures, class presentations, and reading assignments. Each quiz will be worth up to 10 points.

Persons who come to class late--after a quiz has begun--will not be allowed to take that quiz.

At the end of the semester, one or more quizzes will be dropped; the ten highest quiz scores will be counted toward the student's total score--for a semester total of 100 possible points.

Grading

Scores will be posted on Blackboard as soon as possible after quizzes and exams.

The major exams will be worth 100 points each--200 points total.

The quizzes over the lectures will be worth ten points each--100 points total.

The journalizations, book reviews, or research papers assigned are worth no more than 50 points each.

At the end of the semester, the total points of each student will be divided by the total number of points that it was possible to earn. The result will show the percentage of the total possible points earned by the student.

The letter grade for the semester will be determined from that percentage.

The grade scale will be as follows:

85% = A; 75% = B; 60% = C; 50% = D;

below 50% = F.

There will be no curve and no individualized extra credit. If you fail to take or make up any major exam or

complete any major assignment you cannot pass the course, regardless of your scores on your other work.

Please consult the University Calendar for the date and time of the final examination for your class. That date will not be changed. Do not plan any trips, events, etc. that might prevent you from taking your final exam at the scheduled time.

You must take the final examinations in order to pass the course.

University Policy on Academic Honesty from Academic Policy Statement 810213

5.3 Academic Honesty. The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

In other words, cheating is unacceptable. Cheating, copying, plagiarism and/or failure to comply with written and/or oral rules, directions or instructions in regard to class assignments, papers, tests, exams, or quizzes, etc. will be subject to disciplinary action that--at the discretion of the professor--could result in loss of points, lowering of letter grade, or failure in the course.

Students with Disabilities

Persons who are seeing or hearing impaired should notify the professor if they need to have a seat that is close to the front of the classroom. Persons with learning disabilities, physical handicaps, or other serious conditions or impairments might require special arrangements for exams, assignments, use of tape recorders, etc. Those persons should contact the Counseling Center (ext. 4-1720), which will then inform the instructor about the arrangements that need to be made.

Please do not bring a tape or digital recording device to class unless you can provide some documentation for a disability.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems

stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

University Policy on Visitors in the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted to stay.

They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion that the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

All students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. The evaluations will relate to the objectives listed at the beginning of the syllabus. The teacher will not be present in the classroom during the evaluation, and students will be expected to complete the evaluation as fairly and impartially as possible.

Assignments:

Week

- #1** Introductory Meeting
Read: **Text** Introduction

- #2** The Background of the British Empire in English History. Read: **Text Ch. 1**

- #3** The Background of the British Empire in English History II. Read: **Text Ch. 1**

- #4** Beginning of the British Empire in Elizabethan times. Read: **Text Ch. 2**

- #5** Settling the New World. Read: **Text Ch. 3**

- #6** The Struggle for North America

Read:**Text Ch. 3**

#7 The American Revolution and its Aftermath.
Read:**Text Ch.3**

#8 After America Read:**Text Ch.4**

#9 After America/Australia and New Zealand II. Read:**Text Ch.4**

#10 Durham, Wakefield and Colonial Self Government (Responsible Government) in the Empire.

#11 The British in India
Read:**Text Ch. 5**

#12 Global Growth
Read: **Text Ch.6**

#13 Ruling the Empire
Read: **Text Ch.7**

#14 Being Ruled/Australia - Myth and Reality:
Eureka Stockade; Ned Kelly and The Bushrangers.
Read: **Text. Ch. 8**

#15 **Gender and Empire???**
Read: **Text. Ch. 9**

#16. The Empire and World War I/ World War II

Read:**Text. Ch. 10**

#17 End of Empire/Legacy of British Imperialism.

Read:**Text. Ch. 11**

Final

Please Note: Topics may be combined, shifted, added, or dropped depending on availability of tapes, films, and reading material. The focus of the course may be altered also by the urgency of current news events.

Time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that could adversely affect the majority of the class might also result in minor changes to this syllabus.

Additional Reading Assignments:

Articles, essays, stories, maps, and other reading material will be posted electronically by the instructor-- *eg. on* Blackboard or by e-mail.

These **reading assignments** are intended to provide you with up-to-date news and background information related to the topics you will be dealing with in this course.

Your mission is to master and command the information in all reading assignments in this course. To do that you must read intelligently, alertly, and aggressively. (Underline, take notes, ask questions-- either to yourself or in class.)

In regard to the Internet reading assignments, remember that journalists usually try to answer the following questions in their stories:

I. Who?

- II. What?
- III. When?
- IV. Where?
- V. Why?
- VI. And sometimes "How?"

At the very least, try to spot the answers to those questions as you read.

In addition, **it is strongly suggested that you keep yourself informed** about current events in those areas of the world that were/are part of the British Empire and Commonwealth by

1. Watching and/or listening to news programs, on television and radio (*e.g.* CNN, CSPAN, the News Hour with Jim Lehrer.
2. Reading at least two good newspapers each day and perusing one or more weekly news magazines--*e.g.* Time, Newsweek, the Economist. (Many of the major newspapers and magazines of the world are available on the Internet.)

You cannot relate the events of the past to the present if you do not know what is happening in the present.

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments (no more than three) may include journalizations, book reviews, or research papers and will be worth no more than 50 points each. The writing topics will be selected by the instructor.

Please Note "If the paper displays knowledge but it's not fancy or embellished, it gets a B. If it omits something that the grader thinks is an essential point, or

if it's confusing, vague or irrelevant, it'll probably get a C. An A paper, on the other hand, shows a deep understanding of the material and likely brings in extra data or original insight to support the points made.”
Lynn Jacobs and Jeremy Hyman (University of Arkansas).

University Policy on Student Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones, pagers, laptops and other communications, recording, and listening devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other publications, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may also be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

As scholars at a great university, you will be expected to conduct yourselves accordingly in this class. Talking, sleeping, passing notes, bothering other people, inattentiveness, etc. constitute-- and will be deemed-- inexcusable conduct. Persons engaged in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions including warnings and reprimands, escalating loss of points from the student's total score, loss of eligibility for extra-credit points, and expulsion from class.

Please see the following web address for the complete SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Dicipline.

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Discussion of--and questions about--this syllabus may take place at any time during the semester.