

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

**HI 459: Imperialism and Culture: British Discourses on Race, Gender,  
Class and Nation, c. 1850-1914**

2009-2010  
Mon. 7-10 p.m.  
Room DAWB 4-106

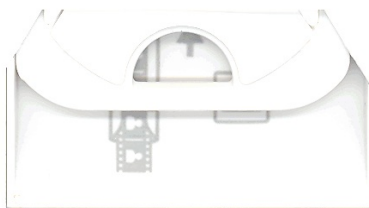
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Modern imperialism was a powerful instrument of demographic and cultural change. By consent or coercion peoples from diverse regions and cultures were thrown together, and they constructed new societies built upon novel forms of social inequality and conflict. This multi-racial and multi-cultural dimension of imperialism also had an impact on metropolitan cultures, and gave rise to a correspondingly new discourses on race, gender, class and nation. New directions in the social history of popular culture and new approaches to the study of culture itself have recast research on imperialism. Traditionally, the history of empire was largely a record of how the activities of European colonists, merchants and administrators transformed the external world. The new historical and cultural studies have reversed that relationship, and probe how the possession of a global empire transformed the society and culture of both colonized peoples and the colonizing metropolis.

Our presumed knowledge of peoples and cultures is a function of the authority which western imperialism exercised in the past and in the present. Our language itself entrenches these unequal relationships in our thought and this language itself is a product of the historical process. Victorian liberals such as John Stuart Mill and Charles Dilke, and radical socialists such as H. M. Hyndman posed the disturbing question which lies at the root of the interest in imperialism and culture. Could democracy, in a narrow sense of legal and political institutions, and in a broader sense of the culture of everyday life, prosper in a nation which ruled the largest empire in human history? The tension between democracy and imperialism has a broader and more enduring dimension which can best be explored by the contrast between the imperial past and our post-colonial present.

This seminar will explore how this relationship between imperialism and culture shaped the identities of race, gender, class and nation in the British world since the 18th century with particular focus on 1850-1914. The construction of these identities asserted essential differences between peoples, and sustained forms of inequality at a time when in the metropolis both political institutions and the culture at large were taking on a modern democratic form. Supporters of empire devised sophisticated and pervasive means to defend the assertion of imperial power and dominance. Though often neglected, other historical actors, both dissenters within British society and colonized peoples of colour, created an equally sophisticated critique exposing the contradictions between imperialism and democracy.

In the first term, weekly seminars will be based on readings drawn from secondary sources and



selected primary documents. There will be short essay one of the assigned texts, and a historiographical paper due at the beginning of the second term. In the second term, in consultation with the instructor, students will develop an independent research project. Research papers will be presented to the seminar following reading week. These research projects will involve, in most instances, primary sources (the writings and activities of particular authors or historical actors, or will look at a particular event) as means to explore specific topics related to the broad theme of imperialism and culture. The resources available through Trellis (the Library collection) provide a rich variety of sources for research of this kind.

Seminar Topics:

Topics and readings for seminars will be chosen from the following:

- Imperialism and the Post-Colonial Condition
- An 18th century perspective – Elizabeth Marsh, a woman in world history
- Slavery, Freedom and Race
- The West and the Other -- Edward Said and the imperialism of western culture
- Empire, Nation and Ideology: reluctant imperialism and the civilising mission
- Imperialism and Culture – science, religion and everyday life
- Women, Gender and Empire
- Subjects and Citizens: late Victorian and Edwardian ideas about race relations
- The Colonial Other as Historical Agent: Afro-Asian resistance in the heart of empire
- Absent-Minded Imperialists and the Political Economy of Empire
- Imperialism, Democracy and Social Reform (1895-1914)

Assignments and Assessment:

In addition to discussions on assigned readings, there are the following written assignments:

Fall Term

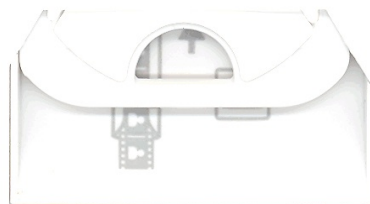
- a short essay on Linda Colley’s The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh
- a historiographical paper on selected seminar readings;

Winter Term

- 20 page research paper using primary and secondary sources based on a topic developed in consultation with the instructor

Distribution of Marks:

Short essay	10%	<b>Oct. 9</b>
Historiographical essay on Readings	25%	<b>Jan. 4</b>
Seminar Discussion: [both terms]	25%	
Research Paper	40%	



## HI 459

### Bibliography

#### Textbooks and Readings:

##### **Required:**

Michael Adas, "High" Imperialism and the "New" History

Linda Colley, The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh

Catherine Hall and Sonya Rose, ed., At Home with the Empire: Metropolitan Culture and the Imperial World (includes good, recent bibliography)

Edward Said, Orientalism

**Note:** Empire-on-line (a digital data base available on-line from the Laurier Library catalogue, has essays and an extensive collection of primary sources. This collection will serve as the "course package" for HI 459)

##### **Optional:**

Philippa Levine, The British Empire

Clare Midgely, ed., Gender and Imperialism

Bernard Porter, The Absent-Minded Imperialists

Andrew Thompson, The Empire Strikes Back? The Impact of Imperialism on Britain

##### **Reference for Background:**

Bernard Porter, The Lion's Share: a Short History of British Imperialism, 1850-1970

C. Harvie and C. Matthews, The Very Short History of Nineteenth-Century Britain

T. W. Heyck, The Peoples of the British Isles: A New History

vol. 2: from 1688 to 1870

vol. 3: from 1870 to the present

Colin Matthews, The Nineteenth Century: The Oxford Short History of the British Isles

### Bibliography, Reference & Background

#### Bibliographies & Reference:

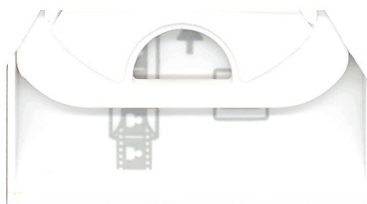
William Roger Louis, ed., The Oxford History of the British Empire. 5 vols.

*[the most recent multi-volume series on British imperial history; each essay in each volume has a select bibliography, and vol. V includes essays on historiography and a comprehensive bibliography. The relevant volumes in the series are:*

Vol. III: The Nineteenth Century, ed., Andrew Porter

Vol. IV: The Twentieth Century, ed., J. M. Brown and W. R. Louis

Vol. V: Historiography, ed., R. W. Winks



The New Oxford History of England

Boyd Hilton, A Mad, Bad, and Dangerous People? England, 1783-1846

K. T. Hoppen, The Mid-Victorian Generation, 1846-86

G. R. Searle, A New England? Peace and War, 1886-1918

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (*recently produced standard biographical dictionary for British history; available on-line through Trellis*)

H. J. Hanham, Bibliography of British History, 1851-1914 (*now dated but a comprehensive bibliography of significant primary published sources*)

Evans Lewin, ed., The Subject Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Empire Society, formerly the Royal Colonial Institute (*this bibliography is particularly useful on contemporary pamphlets and other commentaries. It lists magazine and journal articles as well as books, and since our local holdings are richer in periodicals, it is a most useful guide.*)

**Victorian & Edwardian Society and Culture**

F. Bedarida, A Social History of England, 1851-1975

E. J. Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire

J. F. C. Harrison, The Late Victorian Britain

Colin Holmes, John Bull's Island: Immigrants and British Society since 1870

G. S. Jones, Outcast London

H. Perkin, The Origins of Modern English Society, 1780-1880

H. Perkin, The Rise of Professional Society: England since 1880

R. T. Shannon, The Crisis of Imperialism, 1865-1915

F. M. L. Thompson, The Rise of Respectable Society

F. M. L. Thompson, ed., The Cambridge Social History of Britain, 1750-1950, 3 vols.

Paul Thomson, The Edwardians

**Victorian Imperialism:**

C. C. Eldridge, England's Mission

C. C. Eldridge, Victorian Imperialism

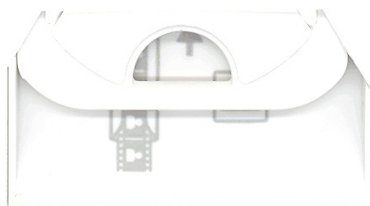
Ronald Hyam, Britain's Imperial Century

Robert Johnson, British Imperialism: Histories and Controversies

W. R. Louis, ed., Imperialism: The Robinson and Gallagher Controversy

John Mackenzie, Propaganda and Empire

R. Robinson and J. Gallagher, Africa and the Victorians



**Major Periodicals:**

*note: **Historical Abstracts** is the most valuable guide to periodical articles in European and World history. This data base is available on-line through Trellis and with the capacity for author and subject searches*

Victorian Studies (includes annual bibliography)

Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History

History Workshop

History Today

Journal of British Studies

English Historical Review

Past and Present

The Historical Journal

History

Journal of Social History

International Review of Social History

Social History

Immigrants and Minorities

Race and Class

**Books and Articles of Interest:**

Michael Adas, Machines as the Measure of Men

Kenneth Ballhatchet, Race, Sex, and Class under the Raj

C. A. Bayly, The Birth of the Modern World

Antoinette Burton, Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women and Imperial Culture

Barbara Bush, Imperialism and Postcolonialism

P. J. Cain and A. G. Hopkins, British Imperialism: Innovation and Expansion, 1688-1914

David Cannadine, "The Empire Strikes Back," Past and Present 147 (1995), pp.180-194

David Cannadine, Ornamentalism: How the British saw their Empire

John Cell, The Highest Stage of White Supremacy: The Origins of Segregation in South Africa and the American South

Nupur Chaudhuri and Margaret Strobel, eds., Western Women and Imperialism: Complicity and Resistance

Linda Colley, Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837 (1992)

Linda Colley, "Britishness and Otherness: An Argument," Journal of British Studies, 31 (1992), 309-29

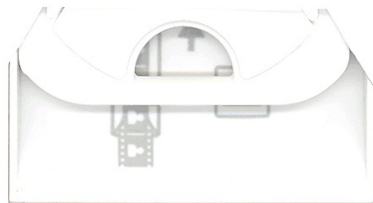
F. Cooper, T. Holt and R. Scott, Beyond Slavery: explorations of race, labor and citizenship in postemancipation societies

F. Cooper and A. Stoler, eds., Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World

Hugh Cunningham, "The Language of Patriotism," History Workshop Journal, 12 (1981), pp.8-33

Philip Curtin, The Image of Africa: British Ideas and Action, 1780-1850

Norman Etherington, ed., Missions and Empire



- Julie Evans, ed., Equal Subjects, Unequal Rights: Indigenous Peoples in British Settler Colonies, 1830-1910
- Peter Fryer, Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain
- Paul Gilroy, Against Race: Imagining Political Culture beyond the Colour Line
- Paul Gilroy, Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness
- Kevin Grant, A Civilised Savagery: Britain and the New Slaveries in Africa, 1884-1926
- Catherine Hall, Civilising Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867
- Catherine Hall, ed., Cultures of Empire
- Catherine Hall, Keith McClelland, Jane Rendall, Defining the Victorian Nation: Class, Race and Gender and the Reform Act of 1867
- E. J. Hobsbawm and T. O. Ranger, ed., The Invention of Tradition
- Thomas C. Holt, The Problem of Freedom: Race, Labor and Politics in Jamaica and Britain, 1832-1938
- A.G. Hopkins, "Explorers' Tales: Stanley Presumes-Again" The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, 36 (2008), pp. 669-684
- Robert A. Huttenback, Racism and Empire: White Settlers and Colored Immigrants in the British Self-Governing Colonies, 1830-1910
- Dane Kennedy, "Imperial History and Post-Colonial Theory," Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History 24 (1996), pp.345-63
- V. G. Kiernan, The Lords of Humankind
- Marilyn Lake and Henry Reynolds, Drawing the Global Colour Line: White Men's Countries and the International Challenge of Racial Inequality
- Philippa Levine, ed., Gender and Empire
- D. A. Lorimer, Colour, Class and the Victorians
- D. A. Lorimer, "Science and the Secularization of Victorian Images of Race," Contexts of Victorian Science, ed. B. Lightman, pp.212-35.
- D. A. Lorimer, "From Natural Science to Social Science: Race and Race Relations in late Victorian and Edwardian Racism," Proceedings of the British Academy, 155 (2009), pp. 181-212
- John M. Mackenzie, ed., Imperialism and Popular Culture
- John M. Mackenzie, "Comfort' and Conviction: A Response to Bernard Porter," The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, 36 (2008), pp. 659-668
- Kenan Malik, The Meaning of Race: Race, History and Culture in Western Society
- Anne McClintock, Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context
- Clare Midgley, Women against Slavery (1992)
- Shula Marks, "History, the Nation and Empire: Sniping from the Periphery," History Workshop Journal 29 (1990), pp.111-19;
- Radhika Mohanram, Imperial White: Race, Diaspora and the British Empire
- Andrew Porter, Religion versus empire? British protestant missionaries and overseas expansion, 1700-1914
- Bernard Porter, "Further Thoughts on Imperial Absent-Mindedness" The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, 36 (2008), pp. 101-117
- Edward Said, Culture and Imperialism



- Edward Said, "Orientalism Reconsidered," Race and Class 27 (1985), pp.1-15
- Jonathan Schneer, London 1900: The Imperial Metropolis
- Mrinalini Sinha, Colonial Masculinity: the 'Manly Englishman' and the 'Effeminate Bangli' in the late nineteenth century
- George Stocking, Victorian Anthropology
- Brian Stoddart, "Sport, Cultural Imperialism and Colonial Responses in the British Empire," Comparative Studies in Society and History, 30 (1988), pp.649-73.
- Miles Taylor, "Imperium et Libertus? Rethinking the Radical Critique of Imperialism during the Nineteenth Century," Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History XIX (1991), pp.1-23
- Susan Thorne, Congregational Missions and the Making of an Imperial Culture in Nineteenth-Century England
- Vron Ware, Beyond the Pale: White Women, Racism and History
- Peter Warwick, ed., The South African War
- Martin J. Weiner, An Empire on Trial: Race, Murder, and Justice under British Rule, 1870-1935
- Nigel Worden, The Making of Modern South Africa

### **University Policies and Services**

Students are advised that the following University policies and services are available or applicable in this course:

**Plagiarism:**

“Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.”

**Special Needs:**

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier’s Special Needs Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

**Foot Patrol**

After class call 886-FOOT for a walk or drive home - No Walk is Too Short or Too Long!

