

Course Title	: THE END OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Course Code	: HST4367
Recommended Study Year	: 3
No. of Credits/Semester	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Teaching Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective (category 1)
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course will examine the end of the British Empire from broad cultural, social, and political perspectives, focusing chiefly on the period 1930-1970. It will focus on the ways in which the end of Empire affected British culture, including national identity and the experience of national “decline”. It will situate the end of the British Empire within the context of total war and the Cold War; within a comparative context (e.g., the French or Japanese experiences); and within the contexts of the rise of American power. It will also examine the impact of decolonization on selected former colonies (i.e., using a case study approach).

Aims

This course will introduce students to the role the end of the British Empire played in making recent British history, and how it shaped the contemporary world. It will also provide students with the opportunity to create historical knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

The students will be able to

- I. identify the key characteristics of the end of the British Empire;
- II. analyze the role the end of Empire played in the making of 20th-century Britain;
- III. analyze the consequences of decolonization on former British colonies;
- IV. compare the end of the British Empire to the end of other contemporary empires
- V. evaluate competing scholarly arguments about the end of the British Empires;
- VI. construct an historical argument based on primary and secondary sources.

Indicative Content

- I. The British World System, 1830-1930
- II. World War II and Decolonization
- III. The Cold War, British Cultural Diplomacy, and Decolonization

- IV. Colonial Nationalism, Violence, and Decolonization
- V. Decolonization, Affluence, and Perceptions of Decline
- VI. Decolonization, the Commonwealth, and the European Community
- VII. Decolonization, Nation-building, and the Making of the Third World
- VIII. “Rejected Britons” and “Abandoned Britons”: Decolonization and Britishness
- IX. Hong Kong: the case that doesn’t fit?
- X. Empire in British Popular Culture, 1930-2000
- XI. The Empire Comes Home: Race and Immigration in Britain, 1945-2000
- XII. British Decolonization in Comparative Perspective

Teaching Method

This course will be taught through lectures, class discussions of assigned readings, and student presentations of their individual research.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- (1) quizzes including short answer and essay questions will measure LOs 1, 2, and 3. Two quizzes will each take approximately 50 minutes of class time. They will be divided into a closed-notes short answer section designed to test recall of basic information from students’ reading, and an open-notes essay section requiring students to write an essay about one or more primary source within its (their) historical context.
- (2) short essays will measure LOs 2, 3, 4, and 5. Two short essays of approximately 1500 words each will require students to compare and evaluate the arguments of three scholarly journal articles on a particular topic chosen by the student.
- (3) a research paper will measure LOs 5 and 6. A research paper of approximately 3500 words will require students to synthesize and analyze a substantial amount of primary source material in order to create an historical argument.
- (4) weekly class discussions will measure LOs 1-6. Weekly class discussions will focus on assigned readings (primary and secondary sources), and will be marked according to a rubric. Students will be expected to connect one week’s readings with readings from previous weeks and with lectures, and to compare their interpretations of readings with classmates’ interpretations.

Learning Outcome	Quizzes	Short essays	Research Paper	Weekly discussions
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Students will be able to identify the key characteristics of the end of the British Empire	X			X
Students will be able analyze the role the end of Empire played in the making of 20 th -century Britain	X	X		X
Students will be able to analyze the consequences of decolonization on former British colonies	X	X		X
Students will be able to compare the end of the British Empire to the end of other contemporary empires		X		X
Students will evaluate competing scholarly arguments about the end of the British Empire		X	X	X
Students will be able to construct an historical argument based on primary and secondary sources			X	X

Assessment

100% continuous assessment, including quizzes, short essays, a research paper, and class participation, broken down as follows:

Two quizzes @ 10%:	20%
Two short essays @ 15%:	30%
Research Paper 30%:	30%
Class Participation:	20%

Required Readings

These will include selected readings from the following (the precise readings may vary from term to term):

Primary Sources:

Archival materials found on the following websites through the LU library: *China: Trade, Politics and Culture, 1793-1980*; *Confidential Print: Middle East, 1839-1969*; *Empire Online*; *India, Raj and Empire*; *Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985*

Secondary Sources:

David Anderson, *Histories of the hanged : the Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire*. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2005.

- Raymond F. Betts, *Decolonization (2nd ed.)*. London; New York: Routledge, 2004.
- George Bernstein, *The Myth of Decline : The Rise of Britain Since 1945*. London: Pimlico, 2004.
- Robert Bickers, ed., *Settlers and Expatriates*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Robert Bickers and Ray Yep, eds., *May Days in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009.
- Judith Brown, ed., *Hong Kong Transition*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 1997
- Elizabeth Buettner, *Empire Families*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- L. J. Butler, *Britain and Empire: Adjusting to a Post-Imperial World*. London: I. B. Tauris, 2002.
- Peter Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British Imperialism*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.
- Grace Ai-Ling Chou, *Confucianism, Colonialism and the Cold War*. Leiden: BRILL, 2011.
- David Clayton, *Imperialism Revisited*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 1997.
- John Darwin, *The Empire Project*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- John Darwin, *Britain and Decolonization*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MD, 1988.
- Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning : the Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. New York : H. Holt, 2005.
- Mark Hampton, "Projecting Britishness to Hong Kong: the British Council and Hong Kong House, 1950s-1970s" . *Historical Research* 85 (November 2012).
- Mark Hampton, "British Legal Culture and Colonial Governance: the attack on corruption in Hong Kong, 1968-1974." *Britain and the World* 5 (September 2012): 223-239.
- A.G. Hopkins, *Rethinking Decolonization*. Past and Present, no. 200 (2008): 211-247.
- Ronald Hyam, *Britain's Declining Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. London: Vintage, 1989.
- C. K. Lau, *Hong Kong's Colonial Legacy*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 1997.
- Wm. Roger Louis, *Ends of British Imperialism: The Scramble for Empire, Suez and Decolonization*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2006.
- T. O. Lloyd, *Empire, Welfare State, Europe: History of the United Kingdom, 1906-2001*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Martin Lynn, ed., *The British Empire in the 1950s: Retreat or Revival?* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Chi-Kwan Mark, *Hong Kong and the Cold War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Chi-Kwan Mark, "Lack of Means or Loss of Will? The United Kingdom and the Decolonization of Hong Kong, 1957-1967". *International History Review* 31 (2009): 45-71.
- Kathleen Paul, *Whitewashing Britain*. London: Cornell University Press, 1997.
- Ietmar Rothermund, *The Routledge Companion to Decolonization*. New York: Routledge, 2000.
- Andrew Thompson, ed., *Britain's Experience of Empire in the Twentieth Century*. Oxford:

Oxford University Press, 2010.

Paul Ward, *Britishness Since 1870*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Stuart Ward, ed., *British Culture and the End of Empire*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2002.

Wendy Webster, *Englishness and Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Richard Weight, *Patriots*. London: Pan Macmillan, 2003.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.