HY114

Making the Modern World: Britain, Europe & Empire, c. 1492-1997

Department of History
Semester 2, 2015-2016

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Time and Venue: Monday 13.00-14.00 (Aula) and Wednesday 16.00-17.00 (JH1)

Module Description:
Covering a broad period, from Christopher Columbus’ ‘discovery’ of the new world in 1492 to the British government’s hand back of Hong Kong in 1997, ‘Making the Modern World: Britain, Europe & Empire, c. 1492-1997’, will provide a wide-ranging introduction to empire in the early-modern and modern worlds. While focusing primarily on the British Empire, the module will place British imperial endeavour within the wider context of European imperial expansion and explore a wide range of themes, including empire in the Atlantic World, imperial competition, Pacific exploration, empire in the East, imperial cultures, imperial resistance, the ‘scramble’ for Africa, decolonization and Ireland and empire.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the module, students will have been introduced to a range of concepts relating to the history of empire, and will have developed knowledge of the history of Europe’s empires and understanding of the ways in which they have shaped the modern world. In addition, they will have been introduced to a varied range of historical writing and will have developed their analytical skills and writing skills by completing a source-based essay.

Module Assessment:
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Test</td>
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<td>University Exam</td>
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Attendance and Individual Study

The Module will be taught through bi-weekly lectures and a tutorial (scheduled for week five). It is expected that students attend all classes and that they undertake individual study, as detailed below.

Please note that the use of mobile phones in class is not permitted.
Module Timetable

Week One
  Class One (1st Feb.) – Introductory Session
  Class Two (3rd Feb.) – Empire and Imperialism

Week Two
  Class Three (8th Feb.) – Spain, Portugal and the Atlantic World
  Class Four (10th Feb) – Empire’s Impacts

Week Three
  Class Five (15th Feb.) – The English and Empire
  Class Six (17th Feb.) – Ireland: Kingdom or Colony? (Professor Raymond Gillespie)

Week Four
  Class Seven (22nd Feb.) – Britain and the Americas
  Class Eight (24th Feb.) – Europe and the East

Week Five
  Class Nine (29th Feb) – Empires at War
  Class Ten (2nd Mar.) – The Seven Years’ War beyond the Atlantic (Dr JoAnne Mancini)

Week Six
  Class Eleven (7th Mar.) – Britain and the ‘Swing to the East’
  Class Twelve (9th Mar.) – ‘Discovering’ the Pacific

Reading Week

Easter Week

Week Seven
  Easter Monday (28th Mar.) – No Class
  Class Thirteen (30th Mar.) – The British Empire in the Nineteenth Century

Week Eight
  Class Fourteen (4th Apr.) – Ruling and Resistance
  Class Fifteen (6th Apr.) – Imperial Cultures

Week Nine
  Class Sixteen (11th Apr.) – The Scramble for Africa
  Class Seventeen (13th Apr.) – In Class Test

Week Ten
  Class Eighteen (18th Apr.) – Global Empires and Global Wars
  Class Nineteen (20th Apr.) – Decolonization, 1: The British Experience
Week Eleven
Class Twenty (25th Apr.) – Decolonization, 2: Comparative Perspectives
Class Twenty-One (27th Apr.) – Legacies of Empire (Ireland)

Week Twelve
Bank Holiday (2nd May) – No Class
Class Twenty-Two (4th May) – Revision Session

Reading

Core Texts
Two core texts have been assigned for the module: Stephen Howe, Empire: a very short introduction (Oxford, 2002); and Philippa Levine, The British Empire: sunrise to sunset (Harlow, 2013). The first of these books is a useful introductory text and should be read and reflected on at the outset of the course; chapters from the second will be assigned, as detailed below, at various points during the module.

Weekly Reading
Lectures are intended to provide an introduction to the topic they address and it is essential that students follow them up with independent study and endeavour to ‘read around’ the course. A list of recommended reading for each lecture is detailed below. Note that while most of these readings are available online via the library catalogue, some will be made available via Moodle.

Class One – Introductory Session

Class Two – Empire and Imperialism
Stephen Howe, Empire: a very short introduction (Oxford, 2002)

Class Three – Spain, Portugal and the Atlantic World
J. H. Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic world: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2006), chapters 1 and 2
Timothy P. Grady, ‘Contact and conquest in Africa and the Americas’ in Toyin Falola and Kevin D. Roberts (eds), The Atlantic World, 1450-2000 (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2008), chapter 2 Moodle

Class Four – Empire’s Impacts
J. H. Elliott, The old world and the new, 1492-1650 (Cambridge, 1972), chapter 2
J. H. Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic world: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2006), chapters 3 and 4
Class Five – The English and Empire
Philippa Levine, The British Empire: sunrise to sunset (Harlow, 2013), chapter 1

Class Six – Ireland: Kingdom or Colony?
Karl S. Bottigheimer, ‘Kingdom and colony: Ireland in the Western enterprise, 1536-1660’ in R. S. Andrews, N. P. Canny and P. E. H. Hair (eds), The westward enterprise: English activities in Ireland, the Atlantic and America, 1480-1650 (Liverpool, 1978), pp 45-64 Moodle
Nicholas Canny, ‘The marginal kingdom: Ireland as a problem in the first British Empire’ in Bernard Bailyn and Philip D. Morgan (eds), Strangers within the realm: cultural margins of the first British Empire (Chapel Hill, 1991), pp 35-66 Moodle

Class Seven – Britain and the Americas
Philippa Levine, The British Empire: sunrise to sunset (Harlow, 2013), chapters 2 and 3

Class Eight – Europe and the East
D. K. Fieldhouse, The colonial empires: a comparative survey from the eighteenth century (New York, 1982), chapter 8 Moodle

Class Nine – Empires at War
J. H. Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic world: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2006), chapter 10

Class Ten – The Seven Years’ War beyond the Atlantic
Class Eleven – Britain and the ‘Swing to the East’
Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapters 4 and 5

Class Twelve – ‘Discovering’ the Pacific

Class Thirteen – The British Empire in the Nineteenth Century
Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapter 6

Class Fourteen – Ruling and Resisting
Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapters 7 and 8

Class Fifteen – Imperial Cultures
Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapter 9
Anthony Webster, *The debate on the rise of the British Empire* (Manchester, 2006), chapters 5 and 6

Class Sixteen – The Scramble for Africa

Class Seventeen – In Class Test

Class Eighteen – Global Empire and Global War
Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapter 10
Keith Jeffery, ‘The second world war’ in Judith M. Brown and William Roger
(eds), *The Oxford history of the British Empire: vol. iv, the twentieth century* (Oxford, 1999), pp 306-29

**Class Nineteen – Decolonization, 1: The British Experience**
- Philippa Levine, *The British Empire: sunrise to sunset* (Harlow, 2013), chapter 11

**Class Twenty – Decolonization, 2: Comparative Perspectives**

**Class Twenty-One – Legacies of Empire**

**Class Twenty-Two – Revision Session**

**Further Reading**

While the recommended readings provide a starting point for individual study, the literature on empire is extensive and students should also make use of the bibliography posted on Moodle when undertaking individual study.

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**Assessment**

As detailed above, the module is assessed by a tutorial assignment (25%), an in-class test (25%) and an exam (50%).

**Tutorial Assignment**

The tutorial assignment will take the form of a short essay (of no more 1,250 words). Students will be assigned an extract from a primary source – Bartolomé de las Casas’ *The Tears of the Indians* (1656) – and will be required to answer the following question:

What does this source tell us about empire in the early modern Atlantic world?

The source will be discussed in lectures four (10th Feb.) and seven (22nd Feb.). In addition, guidance on how to approach the assignment will be offered during lecture seven and a dedicated tutorial on the assignment will be provided in the HY112 tutorial slot in week five. The source will be circulated on Moodle and students should ensure that they have read it
closely before attending this tutorial. The assignment is to be submitted in the HY112 tutorial in week six, and should be formatted and fully referenced in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the Department of History Undergraduate Handbook.

**In-Class Test**

An in-class test will be held in class seventeen (13th April). The test will last for forty minutes and will take the form of a key concepts test. Students will be supplied with a list of concepts, terms and events discussed in the lectures during the first eight weeks of the course and will be required to select three on which to write short statements. These statements should not simply define the terms, but should demonstrate an understanding of their significance to the history of empire. Further guidance on the in-class test will be offered in class 15 (6th April).

**Exam**

A date for the final exam will be confirmed during the course of the module. The exam will last for one hour and will be held under formal examination conditions. The paper will contain two lists of questions, and students will be required to answer one question from each list. Guidance on the exam will be provided in a revision session scheduled for class 22 (4th May).

**Key Dates**

The key dates for assessment are as follows:

- 22nd Feb.: Discussion of source assignment
- 29th Feb. to 4th March (week five): Source assignment tutorial
- 7th March to 11th March (week six): Submission of source assignment
- 6th Apr.: Discussion of in-class test
- 13th Apr.: In-class test
- 4th May: Revision session

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**Module Convenor**

The module convenor, Dr Jonathan Wright, can be contacted by email at jonathan.wright@nuim.ie. If making contact by email, please ensure that you include your own name at the end of the email. In addition, the module convenor can be consulted, in person, during his office hours on Mondays (15.00-17.00) and Tuesdays (9.30-10.30).