

New Directions in the History of Global Britain

This course is a “state of the field” reading seminar. Each week will cover themes that have cropped up as major clusters of study in the history of the British Empire/Britain and the World in the past decade. We'll normally cover a book and an article (often a review article) a week. The chosen works that have been prize-winning, published in major journals, or made other major contributions to the field. The asterisked works are optional, feel free to read according to your interests.

Course Assignments

Commentary Logs

Students taking the course for a letter grade will be expected to write a commentary log of summary, reflections, questions, and *uses* for all but one week of readings (including NYCTC, so totaling ten logs). These must be kept to **one page single-spaced** and contain these four elements:

1. Précis-like summary of argument(s) covered during the week
2. General reflections/connections
3. Questions (especially those pertinent to our discussions, but some may relate to your personal research interests)
4. Uses (how might historians of Global Britain use this field, how might *you* in your current research and conceptualizations use this field)

Commentary logs should be uploaded to the “Assignments” section of Courseworks by the start of class (by 10am on Monday mornings).

Final Paper

Students taking the course for a letter grade will also be expected to complete a final paper of 15-20 pages. This can either be a research paper that combines themes discussed over the course of the semester with some of the student’s own research, or a historiographical essay that explores a scholarly sub-field of the student’s choice in more detail. Students should be prepared to discuss a preliminary plan for this paper by **Oct 29**. Final papers are due **17 Dec**.

Course Schedule

10 Sept – Frameworks

Vernon, “The history of Britain is dead; long live the global history of Britain” *History Australia* (2016)

Barton, “What is the British World?” *British Scholar* (2010)

Howe, “Review Essay: British Worlds, Settler Worlds, World Systems, and Killing Fields” *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2012)

17 September – Liberalism and Empire

Sartori, “Review Essay: The British Empire and Its Liberal Mission” *Journal of Modern History* (2006)

Koditschek, *Liberalism, Imperialism, and the Historical Imagination: Nineteenth-Century Visions of a Greater Britain* (2012 Stansky Prize)

24 September – Slavery, Labor, and Capitalism

Scanlan, “Review Essay: Blood, Money and Endless Paper: Slavery and Capital in

British Imperial History” *History Compass* (2016)
Draper, *The Price of Emancipation: Slave Ownership, Compensation, and British Society at the End of Slavery* (2009 Whitfield Prize)
Bischof, “Chinese Labourers, Free Blacks and Social Engineering in the Post-Emancipation British West Indies” *Past & Present* (2017 Love Prize) *
Huzzey, *Freedom Burning: Anti-Slavery and Empire in Victorian Britain* (2013 Whitfield runner-up) *

1 Oct – Violence and Empire

Doyle, *Communal Violence in the British Empire* (2017 Stansky Prize)
Tusan, “Crimes against Humanity”: Human Rights, the British Empire, and the Origins of the Response to the Armenian Genocide” *AHR* (2015 Love Prize)
Saha, “Murder at London Zoo: Late Colonial Sympathy in Interwar Britain” *AHR* (2016) *

8 Oct – Governmentality and Citizenship

Banerjee, *Becoming Imperial Citizens: Indians in Late Victorian Empire* (2010 Rudikoff Prize, best first book in Victorian Studies)
Wilson, “Rethinking the Colonial State: Family, Gender, and Governmentality in Eighteenth-Century British Frontiers” *AHR* (2011)
Stein, “Protected Persons? The Baghdadi Jewish Diaspora, the British State, and the Persistence of Empire” *AHR* (2012 Love Prize) *
Putnam, “Citizenship from the Margins: Vernacular Theories of Rights and the State from the Interwar Caribbean” *JBS* (2014) *

15 Oct – Science and Knowledge

Qureshi, *Peoples on Parade: Exhibitions, Empire and Anthropology in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (2011 Rudikoff Prize)
Linstrum, “The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire” *Past & Present* (2013 Love Prize and 2013 Forum for History of Human Science Article Prize)
Deb Roy, *Malarial Subjects: Empire, Medicine and Nonhumans in British India, 1820-1909* (2018 longlisted for BSHS Pickstone Prize) *
Ogborn, “Review Essay: ‘It’s Not What You Know...’: Encounters, Go-Betweens and the Geography of Knowledge” *Modern Intellectual History* (2013) *
Tilley, “Global Histories, Vernacular Science, and African Genealogies; or, is the History of Science Ready for the World?” *Isis* (2010) *

22 Oct – Rappaport, *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (2018 PCCBS Book Prize and 2018 Jerry Bentley Prize in World History, AHA)

29 Oct – Open week

5 Nov – No Class

12 Nov – Buettner, *Europe After Empire: Decolonization, Society, and Culture* (2016)

19 Nov – Decolonization and Postcolonialism

Hopkins, “Rethinking Decolonization” *Past & Present* (2008)

Schwarz, *The White Man’s World* (2013 History Today Book Award)

Bailkin, “The Postcolonial Family? West African Children, Private Fostering, and the British State” *The Journal of Modern History* (2010 Love Prize)

Levine, “Gendering Decolonization” *Politique, culture, société* (2010) *

Elkins, “Looking Beyond Mau Mau: Archiving Violence in the Era of Decolonization” *AHR* (2015) *

26 Nov – British Anglo World

Bright and Dilley, “Historiographical Review: After the British World” *The Historical Journal* (2017)

Boucher, “The Limits of Potential: Race, Welfare, and the Interwar Extension of Children Emigration to Southern Rhodesia” *JBS* (2010 Neil Sutherland Article Prize)

Belich, *Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Angloworld* (2011) *

3 Dec – Saunders, *Yes to Europe! The 1975 Referendum and Seventies Britain* (2018)

10 Dec – Black Internationalism

Perry, “Review Essay: Black Britain and the Politics of Race in the 20th Century” *History Compass* (2014)

Waters, *Thinking Black: Britain, 1964-1985*

Matera, *Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* (2016 Whitfield shortlist) *