

Dr. McCullers
TLC 3225
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Office Hours: M-F 10-11

World Empire & Film

HIST 4485
M-F
1:00-4:30
TLC 3205

Course Overview & Objectives

This course examines modern world empires from the New Imperialism to the present by examining the changing ways in which empire is depicted in popular films. By the end of this course, students should:

- Have a clear understanding of various forms of empire, including formal empire, informal empire, and neo-imperialism
- Understand how and why these different forms of empire have emerged and changed over the last 175 years
- Analyze changing historical representations of empire in popular media
- Understand how and why these representations have changed (and not changed) in the last sixty years

Policies:

- Because this is an intensive course, students should attend every class meeting.
 - One absence is permitted without negatively impacting students' grades.
- Please be punctual as this is a time pressured course
- This course is heavily based on discussion, which requires student participation and preparedness:
 - Homework assignments are not onerous and I expect them to be completed daily
 - Participate in discussions – Need I say more?
- Academic Dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the class and will be reported to University Administration

Course Format:

- Each class will begin with a discussion of the previous day's film and homework
- Discussions will be followed by a short lecture introducing the topic of that day's film
- 10 minute break
- A film will be shown every day during the second half of the class

Assignments:

- Daily homework assignments are listed on the schedule below and all readings and videos are available on course den
- Daily Discussion posts should be posted to the discussion board on course den by 12pm each day (Friday posts are not due until Monday)
 - Discussion posts should include an analytical observation on the film and homework as well as a discussion question
 - Discussion posts will help form the basis of our in-class discussions
 - You get one free pass on discussion posts
- Reaction Papers
 - There will be a reaction paper due at the end of each week
 - (by Mondays at 12:30 for weeks 1&2 and by Thursday at midnight for week 3)
 - Papers should be 3-4 pages in length and formatted using Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced, and with 1-inch margins.
 - DO NOT USE CONTRACTIONS
 - Papers should explore an empire-related theme across that week's films, particularly noting how this theme varies (or not) over the time span involved
 - Example: A paper for week one might examine the theme of gender and empire in the 50s, 60s, and 70s based on the movies shown during that week
- Late assignments will be penalized 1 letter grade each 24 hour period they are late
- All assignments must be completed to pass the class

Grade Distribution:

- Attendance – 10%
- Participation – 30%
- Discussion Posts – 30% (12 posts @ 2.5% each)
- Reaction Papers – 30% (10% each)

Schedule

Week 1:

Monday 5/4 – *Around the World in 80 Days*– 1956

Homework.

- *Around the World in 80 Days* Discussion Post
- Jules Verne – *Around the World in 80 Days* (selected Excerpts)
- Daniel Headrick – *The Tools of Empire* (Selected Excerpts)
- “Rule, Britannia!”

Tuesday 5/5 – *Zulu* – 1964

Homework.

- *Zulu* Discussion Post
- Michael Lieven – “Heroism, Heroics, and the Making of Heroes: The Anglo-Zulu War of 1879”

Wednesday 5/6 – *The Man who would be King*– 1975

Homework.

- *The Man who would be King* Discussion Post
- Rudyard Kipling – “The Man who would be King” (Selected Excerpts)
- George Grella – “The Colonial Movie and “The Man who would be King””

Thursday 5/7 - *Apocalypse Now* - 1979

Homework.

- *Apocalypse Now* Discussion Post
- Joseph Conrad, "Heart of Darkness" (Selected Excerpts)
- Documentary on the Rubber Terror
- Vietnam War Documentary

Friday 5/8 - *The Gods must be Crazy* - 1980

Homework.

- *The Gods must be Crazy* Discussion Post
- Lee - "The Gods must be Crazy but the State has a Plan"
- John Marshall - "The Hunters" (1957) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsaXQ0crny8>

****Week 1 Reaction Paper Due Monday (5/11) by 12:30pm****

Week 2:

Monday 5/11 - *Out of Africa* - 1985

Homework.

- Discussion Post on *Out of Africa*
- CJD Duder - "Love and the Lions"
- Isak Dinesen - *Out of Africa* (Selected Excerpts)

Tuesday 5/12 - *Empire of the Sun* - 1987

Homework.

- *Empire of the Sun* Discussion Post
- JG Ballard - *Empire of the Sun* (Selected Excerpts)
- Felicia Yap - Voices and Silences of Memory

Wednesday 5/13 - *Walker* - 1987

- *Walker* Discussion Post
- William Walker - "The Destiny of Nicaragua"
- Solomon - "Tortured History"
- PBS - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/reagan-iran/>
- News footage of Contras & Sandinistas, Iran Contra Affair

Thursday 5/14 - *In the Name of the Father* - 1993

Homework.

- *In the Name of the Father* Discussion Post
- <http://www.history.co.uk/shows/soldiers-stories/articles/northern-ireland-conflict>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/troubles>
- "Voices from the Grave" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSb_XhN2L6s
- U2 - "Sunday Bloody Sunday"

Friday 5/15 - No Class

*** Week 2 Reaction Paper Due Monday (5/18) by 12.30 PM***

Week 3:

Monday 5/18 - *Black Hawk Down* - 2001

Homework.

- *Black Hawk Down* Discussion Post
- NPR - <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/05/229561805/what-a-downed-black-hawk-in-somalia-taught-america>
- Frontline - "Ambush in Mogadishu" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6fMLoVATck>

Tuesday 5/19 – *Goodbye Lenin* – 2003

Homework.

- *Goodbye Lenin* Discussion Post
- Bartmanski – “Successful Icons of a failed time: Rethinking Post-Communist Nostalgia”
- “Rise and Fall of the Wall” –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsqACUvNSgY>

Wednesday 5/20 – *Argo* – 2012

Homework.

- *Argo* Discussion Post
- News Footage – Iran Hostage Crisis
- PBS – The Iran Hostage Crisis –
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/carter-hostage-crisis/>

****Reaction Paper 3 Due Thursday by Midnight****