

**HIST 595.01E Research Literature and Techniques**  
Spring 2014

**Instructor:** Prof. Kuracina

**Office location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 104

**Office hours:** Tuesday, 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm; Thursday 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm; *and by appointment*

**Office email:** [William.Kuracina@tamuc.edu](mailto:William.Kuracina@tamuc.edu)

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Course Materials:**

Books: The booklist will be based on the student's specific research focus and verified through consultation with the instructor. These should be research monographs or articles in scholarly journals that discuss the student's topic.

Suggested & supplemental reading list: Consultation with the instructor may result in supplemental reading assignments that are designed to draw from additional interpretations or to broaden the student's methodological approach.

**Course description:**

Hours: Three.

Required of students in Option II. This course requires an extensive investigation into a topic agreed upon by the student and instructor. The student will produce a historiographic essay and annotated bibliography under the direction of the instructor. Students must pass the History Department Qualifying Exam prior to enrollment.

*Note:* The student is required to demonstrate competence in systematic research procedure.

The purpose of this course is to enhance the student's comprehension of the broad historiographical trends in the literature associated with a specific research focus, in this instance postcolonial theory. Its goal is to enable the student to articulate a specific thesis relative to existing research and to analyze in considerable depth the major (and minor) interpretive strands.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Produce a detailed bibliography of historiographical materials related to a specific research topic.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Instructional, Methods, Activities Assessments:**

Attendance policy: Students are expected to attend every class session; attendance will be taken. Each unexcused absence beyond two (2) instances will result in a 10% reduction in the attendance grade; excessive unexcused absences (more than 6) may be cause for a failing grade in this course, at the instructor's discretion.

Students should inform the instructor if there is a legitimate reason (e.g., illness or emergency) for missing an exam. Students should contact the instructor within 48 hours of the missed exam to schedule a make-up; failure to do so

may forfeit the possibility of making up the exam. Non-documented excuses are not generally acceptable, but can be accepted at the instructor's discretion. If you must travel on school business (with an athletic team or for another reason), then let me know ahead of time.

Students are expected to do the reading as noted in this syllabus and to be prepared to participate in classroom discussions. Occasional in-class writing assignments or short quizzes may be assigned and will contribute towards your participation grade; these may not be made up. Although lectures, readings and discussions will overlap significantly, the readings will also include materials that may not be covered in class; nevertheless, students are responsible for all content covered in reading assignments.

Participation: You are encouraged to bring questions with you to class and to interrupt lecture to ask your questions should some point require further explanation. Students are expected to create and sustain an open intellectual classroom environment which fosters discussion – students should listen to each others' comments and questions with an open mind and to respect viewpoints other than their own. Students must also be open to understanding why people of the past did what they did, and should not dismiss these actors' views because they might be perceived as "wrong." Your participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

- A = Student is always prepared; makes frequent voluntary contributions to classroom discussion
- B = Student is generally prepared; makes occasional voluntary contributions to discussion or participates only when called on
- C = Student is usually prepared but rarely voluntarily speaks
- D = Student is generally unprepared and does not contribute to discussion
- F = Student is unprepared and appears disinterested in contributing to discussion

Assignments: This course's objective is to afford the student opportunities to interpret the history in response to more general historiographical questions.

*Historiography paper:* The student will write a comprehensive historiography paper on a topic of his/her choice within the broad framework of postcolonial theory, after consultation with the instructor. This assignment will be due at the end of the third quarter of the semester. The final paper will be approximately 20 pages in length (including text and notes but excluding the bibliography and title page). The paper must use footnotes according to Turabian style and will also include a properly-formatted bibliography and a title page that (at least) includes the student's name and the title of the paper. The text must be double-spaced, the pages must be numbered, all margins will be set at 1 inch and the paper should be written in Times New Roman 12pt or its equivalent. This paper may not be submitted in more than one class.

The paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

- Compliance with the assignment
- The presence, strength and originality of a thesis
- The proper use of evidence to support that thesis
- The degree to which the paper is analytical and evaluative rather than narrative
- Evidence that the sources used and listed in the bibliography were read and understood
- Organization of the paper and logical progression of the argument
- Mechanics (spelling, grammar, syntax and punctuation)

*Discussion and participation:* This course is intended to move beyond content into a general assessment historiography and historical context. One-on-one discussions of general or specific interpretive strains will be irregularly scheduled throughout the semester, as necessary.

**Grading:**

Student performance will be evaluated as follows:

- Historiography paper (40% of final grade)
- Weekly analyses/critiques (collectively worth 20% of final grade)
- Discussion and participation (worth 30% of final grade)
- Attendance (worth 10% of final grade)

**All of the requirements must be completed to pass this course**

*Written work:* Grading criteria for written work holds true for exams, written quizzes or occasional written “homework” assignments. It is based on the following:

- A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean
- B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence
- C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence
- D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay

General letter grades correspond to the following scale:

- A = 90–100
- B = 80–89
- C = 70–79
- D = 60–69
- F = less than 59

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

The following information is provided to assist students in preparing to use technology in this course:

Word processing: Students will need access to a word processor and a printer to access and print out reading assignments, to write research papers, to prepare for debates and written exams and to complete type-written response assignments. Students’ word processors must enable them to read and insert footnotes into a Microsoft Word document.

Internet: Students will need email access to receive reading assignments and for course-related correspondence.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor whenever the need arises; clear lines of communication enable the instructor to better assist your learning processes and provide any necessary support. Outside the classroom, the best way to contact the instructor is by email and during posted office hours. Do not hesitate to talk to me about any concerns you may have or any problems or issues you may experience during the semester – I can only assist you if I am aware of what is going on with you.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Classroom Behavior:**

To avoid being a distraction to either other students or the instructor, please take care of personal needs before class begins and turn off cell phones. Do not send text messages, chat on IM or post Facebook updates during class; although you think you can do these things subtly, you can not – it is a distraction.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

**Written Assignment Format and Late Assignment Policy:**

Papers must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Pages must be numbered. Your name, the course number and the due date must appear at the top of the first page; no cover page is necessary. Pages should be stapled. Any authors' quotations or ideas that are derived from another writer must be cited; footnote citations are preferred, but not mandatory. We will briefly discuss citations in class, but if there are any questions about how to cite or what to cite, please ask. Any papers that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned to the author for resubmission and will be penalized for being submitted late.

All writing assignments will be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will only be accepted with advance permission and will be penalized 5% for each day it is late.

**Academic Honesty:**

In all our courses, history faculty members expect that all work turned in by students for grades is their own work. It is the policy of the university, the history department and the instructor that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is defined as selling or purchasing academic products with the intention that they be submitted to fulfill an academic or course requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest possible academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of violating academic integrity policy will fail the assignment in question, will automatically fail the course and will be subject to disciplinary action by the university (see Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b. [1,2,3]). Further information on the history department's plagiarism policy can be found on the department webpage. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.

**Writing Center:**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center's resources for assistance with drafting their written assignments. Although the center will not write your paper for you, it may help you to improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, plan in advance because it can only help you if there is adequate time to incorporate their suggestions into your paper. Additionally, I am willing to read rough drafts (and even multiple drafts) of your written work so long as the drafts are submitted at least one week prior to the due date.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students requiring special accommodations for learning disabilities must work with the Academic Support Committee. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Gee Library, Room 132,

Phone: (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax: (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu).

*Note:* This syllabus is your contract with the instructor for the semester. By enrolling in this course you agree to abide by all the policies and requirements set forth below. The terms of this contract are non-negotiable, apply equally to each student, and remain in effect throughout the semester; only the instructor may alter the terms of this agreement. Please contact the instructor if there are any questions about this syllabus or the terms herein.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALANDAR

### **Tentative course schedule (and themes):**

The following schedule is meant to be a guide for students throughout the semester and indicates when assignments are due. Please refer to the schedule frequently. I will do my best to keep to this schedule, but I reserve the right to change it as the semester progresses and as such circumstances arise.

- January 18 – Introduction and opening remarks
- January 25 – Lawrence James, *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*
- February 1 – David Armitage, *The Ideological Origins of the British Empire*
- February 8 – John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson, “Imperialism of Free Trade”
- February 15 – Edward Said, *Orientalism*
  - **Full draft of historiography paper is due**
- February 22 – C.A. Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*
- March 1 – John Mackenzie, *Imperialism and Popular Culture*
- March 8 – Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History*
  - **Final draft of historiography paper is due on Monday, March 10**
- March 15 – **—Spring Break—**
- March 22 – Thomas Metcalf, *Ideologies of the Raj*
- March 29 – Bernard Cohn, *Imperialism and its Forms of Knowledge*
- April 5 – Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, *Tensions of Empire*
- April 12 – David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism*
- April 19 – peer review
- April 26 – peer review