

Syllabus

Decolonization and the United States

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The purpose of this course is to give students a broad understanding of the process of the decolonization of European empires since 1776 and the reactions and policies of the United States to this process around the globe. The domestic response within the United States will also play a key part of this course.

Course Requirements:

One Midterm Class Examinations: 30%
One Final Examination: 30%
One Research Paper (3,000 words) 30%
Class Participation: 10%

Explanation of Course Requirements:

The course is structured around two lectures followed by a day of class discussion focused on the assigned readings. Attendance at lectures and discussions are both mandatory and necessary to successfully complete the course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Excessive absences (more than 4 lectures or 2 discussions) will lead to a diminution of the student's grade. Reading assignments must be done before class. Students must also come to class prepared to answer questions and participate in discussions. Students will be graded on their preparation and participation in class discussions.

Examinations will consist of three (3) short answers followed by an essay question. Students will be given ten (10) possible items for the short answers and three (3) possible essays during the prior class meeting. Students should be prepared to answer any of these questions presented on the day of the examination.

Students will also be required to write one research paper (3000 words) focused on the United States policies regarding a specific example of decolonization. Students will choose their topics early in the semester, prepare a short prospectus charting the research path, and present a rough draft prior to handing in the completed paper. All the papers are to be presented in **Times New Roman 12-point** font. Students are to use **footnotes** organized under the guidelines provided by the professor.

Class Readings:

Lester Langley, *The Americas in the Age of Revolution 1750-1850.*
Robert Beisner, *Twelve Against Empire: The Anti-Imperialists.*
Penny von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anti-colonialism, 1937-1957.*
David Newsom, *The Imperial Mantle The United States, Decolonization, and the Third World.*
David Ryan (Editor) and Victor Pungong, *The United States and Decolonization: Power and Freedom.*

Class Schedule

Wed. Jan. 16 Introduction: Course Syllabus Handed Out and Course Requirements Discussed.

Friday Jan. 18 Definitions of Colonialism, Imperialism
Langley, Introduction. pgs. 1-10.
Ryan and Pungong, Foreword and Introduction, pgs. xiii-23.
Newsom, Introduction, pgs. 1-12.

Mon. Jan. 21 The American Revolution
Wed. Jan. 23 The Emergence of the United States

Friday Jan. 25 **Discussion #1: The "American" Revolution: How American and How**

Revolutionary?

Langley, Part One, pgs. 13-86.

Ryan and Pungong, Chapter One, 24-40.

Mon. Jan. 28 Revolutions in Conflict: The United States and the French Revolution

Wed. Jan. 30 The Other American Revolution: Haiti and the Struggle for Freedom

Fri. Feb. 1 **Discussion #2: Why Not Support the Haitian Revolution?**

Langley, Part Two, pgs. 87-146

Mon. Feb. 4 Even More American Revolutions

Wed. Feb. 6 The Revolutionary Doctrine from Monroe

Fri. Feb. 8 **Discussion#3: Dealing with the Independence of Latin America**

Langley, Part Three, pgs. 147-216

Mon. Feb. 11 The Age of American Expansion

Wed. Feb. 13 Blurred Boundaries, Defined Race

Fri. Feb. 15 **Discussion#4: Did Empire Cause the Civil War?**

Langley, Part Four, pgs. 217-287.

Mon. Feb. 18 The Spanish-American War

Wed. Feb. 20 The Cuban Question

Fri. Feb. 22 **Discussion#5: Is the United States Imperialism Different?**

Newsom, Part One, pgs. 13-42.

Beisner, Part One, pgs. ix-132.

Mon. Feb. 25 The Philippines and Asia

Wed. Feb. 27 World War One

Fri. Mar. 1 **Discussion#6: What ever happened to traditional anti-colonialism?**

Beisner, Part Two and Conclusion, pgs. 139-239.

Prospectus Due

Mon. Mar. 4 Peace of the Victors and Wilson's 14 Points

Wed. Mar. 6 **Mid-term Exam**

Fri. Mar. 8 **Movie**

Mon. Mar. 11 through Fri. Mar. 15 **Spring Break**

Mon. Mar 18 World War Two

Wed. Mar. 20 The Atlantic Charter and Roosevelt's Calls for the End of Empire

Fri. Mar. 22 **Discussion#7: The Revival and Reconsideration of Anti-Colonialism**

Newsom, Chapter Three, pgs. 43-54.

Ryan and Pungong, Chapters Three and Four, 63-101.

Von Eschen, Race Against Empire. Introduction and Chapters 1-5, pgs. 1-121.

Mon. Mar. 25 The Loss of the Jewel in the Crown
Ryan and Pungong, Chapter Five, 102-120.
Wed. Mar. 27 Dutch Disaster and United States Intervention
Newsom, Chapter 4, pgs. 55-70.
Fri. Mar. 29 and Mon. Apr. 1 **Easter Break**

Wed. Apr. 3 French Indochina

Fri. Apr. 5 **Discussion#8: Why do we push decolonization?**
Ryan and Pungong, Chapter Six, pgs. 121-139.
Rough Draft Due

Mon. Apr. 8 British in the Middle East and Southeast Asia
Newsom, Chapter Six, pgs. 87-94.
Ryan and Pungong, Chapter Seven, pgs. 140-167 and Chapter Nine, 188-206.

Wed. Apr. 10 French Algeria

Fri. Apr. 12 **Discussion#9: Why do we stop?**

Mon. Apr. 15 British Africa

Wed. Apr. 17 French Africa
Fri. April 19 **Discussion#11: Black Power or White Rule?**
Newsom, Chapters Seven and Eight, pgs. 95-120.
Ryan and Pungong, Chapter Eight, 168-187.
Von Eschen, Chaps. 6-8 and Conclusion, pgs. 122-189.

Mon. Apr 22 The Caribbean Conundrum
Ryan and Pungong, Chapter Two, 41-62.

Wed. Apr. 24 Belgian Congo

Fri. Apr. 26. **Discussion#10: Decolonization Gone Mad?**
Mon. Apr. 29 Portugal 1975

Wed. May 1 **Discussion#12: How Does the Process of Decolonization Define Current Relations?**
Newsom, Part Three, pgs. 123-202.
Ryan and Pungong, Reread Introduction and Chapters 10 and 11, pgs. 207-232.

Thur. May 9 **Final Examination 8:00-10:00 AM**