HISTORY 4393: BRITAIN AND IMPERIALISM
The Rise and Fall of the British Empire

Course objectives: The objectives of this history course are: (1) to guide students in the gathering, analyzing, and use of historical materials from primary sources through the writing of formal essays; (2) to create an understanding of the impact of change (in political or societal thought and in science and technology) upon Britain and British colonies; (3) to identify the elements of English life which have affected the entire world, especially in governmental and judicial systems; (4) to develop an understanding of modern colony building and the political and philosophical systems yoked to imperialism and post-imperialism; (5) to enable students to analyze historical problems; (6) to establish a sense of the chronology of English history as a basis for understanding other fields of study, especially in literature and political science.

Dates to remember: Book reviews due – October 5
Take-home Exam I due – October 19
Take-home Exam II due - November 16
3 Essays due - November 23
Comprehensive Final Exam – December 14 (11 am – 1:30 pm)

Students should keep pace with the lectures by reading appropriate sections of library or internet resources about British and Imperial history. Major exams will be in the take-home format, and will include some questions rooted in the lectures and others requiring out-of-class references.

Papers: Each student should write formal book reviews of two books of biography for presentation to the professor. The books should be chosen in consultation with the professor, one dealing with a Briton and one with a colonial native. The book reviews should be formal, typed, and prepared according to the guidance of a scholarly guide such as Benjamin or Rampolla. The papers should demonstrate that the student has read the biographies, knows what the authors contend, and has reflected upon the reading.

Each student should prepare three five-paged essays of typed, double-spaced text, employing font size 12. The topics of the essays may be any subject falling within the dates of this course for which ample primary source material is available and for which the professor has given approval. The three papers should cover various time periods and topics. Secondary sources are useful, but the intent of the project is to bring students into contact with primary sources. Each student should meet with the professor to choose the topics for the essays so that work can begin by October, and make a short presentation to the class near the end of the semester. Students will participate in class discussions and be responsible for acting as a resource for specific topics assigned by the Professor.

GRADING: 2 Take-home Exams @ 100 points each; 2 biographical reviews @ 50 points; 3 Essays @ 50 points; Class presentation of one essay @ 50 points; Class attendance and participation @50 points; Class discussion leadership @50 points; Final Examination @ 200 points. Total possible points 800.
1. Introduction
2. British Institutions – Geography and Society
3. British Institutions - Governance
4. British Institutions - Church and University
5. The Tudor State
6. Agriculture and Trade
7. The English Reformation
8. Stuart Absolutism
9. Civil War and Glorious Revolution
10. European Connections
11. 18th Century – Rulers and the Ruled
12. The Napoleonic Era
13. Crisis in Victory
14. Victorian Epoch
15. The Edwardians
16. 19th Century Imperialism
17. The Great War and its Aftermath
18. The Years of Uncertainty
19. Another Great War
20. The Labour State
21. Internationalism
22. North America
23. The West Indies
24. Canada
25. Australia
26. New Zealand
27. The Far East; India
28. India
29. India and Pakistan
30. Africa
31. Egypt
32. South Africa
33. Dominions
34. The Commonwealth
35. Independence Examined
36. Independence at Floodtide
37. Student Presentations
38. Student Presentations
39. The New Commonwealth
40. Assessment
41. Assessment
42. Summation