Course Title : The End of the British Empire
Course Code : HST3367
Recommended Study Year: 3
No. of Credits/Semester : 3
Mode of Tuition : Sectional approach
Teaching Hours : 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog. : Elective (category 1)
Prerequisite(s) : None
Co-requisite(s) : None
Exemption Requirement(s) : N/A

Brief Course Description
This course will examine the end of the British Empire from broad cultural, social, and political perspectives, focusing chiefly on the period 1930-1970. It will focus on the ways in which the end of Empire affected British culture, including national identity and the experience of national “decline”. It will situate the end of the British Empire within the context of total war and the Cold War; within a comparative context (e.g., the French or Japanese experiences); and within the contexts of the rise of American power. It will also examine the impact of decolonization on selected former colonies (i.e., using a case study approach).

Aims
This course will introduce students to the role the end of the British Empire played in making recent British history, and how it shaped the contemporary world. It will also provide students with the opportunity to create historical knowledge.

Learning Outcomes
The students will be able to
I. identify the key characteristics of the end of the British Empire;
II. analyze the role the end of Empire played in the making of 20th-century Britain;
III. analyze the consequences of decolonization on former British colonies;
IV. compare the end of the British Empire to the end of other contemporary empires
V. evaluate competing scholarly arguments about the end of the British Empires;
VI. construct an historical argument based on primary and secondary sources.

Indicative Content
I. The British World System, 1830-1930
II. World War II and Decolonization
III. The Cold War, British Cultural Diplomacy, and Decolonization
IV. Colonial Nationalism, Violence, and Decolonization
V. Decolonization, Affluence, and Perceptions of Decline
VI. Decolonization, the Commonwealth, and the European Community
VII. Decolonization, Nation-building, and the Making of the Third World
VIII. “Rejected Britons” and “Abandoned Britons”: Decolonization and Britishness
IX. Hong Kong: the case that doesn’t fit?
X. Empire in British Popular Culture, 1930-2000
XI. The Empire Comes Home: Race and Immigration in Britain, 1945-2000
XII. British Decolonization in Comparative Perspective

Teaching Method
This course will be taught through lectures, class discussions of assigned readings, and student presentations of their individual research.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

(1) quizzes including short answer and essay questions will measure LOs 1, 2, and 3. Two quizzes will each take approximately 50 minutes of class time. They will be divided into a closed-notes short answer section designed to test recall of basic information from students’ reading, and an open-notes essay section requiring students to write an essay about one or more primary source within its (their) historical context.

(2) short essays will measure LOs 2, 3, 4, and 5. Two short essays of approximately 1500 words each will require students to compare and evaluate the arguments of three scholarly journal articles on a particular topic chosen by the student.

(3) a research paper will measure LOs 5 and 6. A research paper of approximately 3500 words will require students to synthesize and analyze a substantial amount of primary source material in order to create an historical argument.

(4) weekly class discussions will measure LOs 1-6. Weekly class discussions will focus on assigned readings (primary and secondary sources), and will be marked according to a rubric. Students will be expected to connect one week’s readings with readings from previous weeks and with lectures, and to compare their interpretations of readings with classmates’ interpretations.
### Assessment

100% continuous assessment, including quizzes, short essays, a research paper, and class participation, broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quizzees</th>
<th>Short essays</th>
<th>Research Paper</th>
<th>Weekly discussions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two quizzes @ 10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Two short essays @ 15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper @ 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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### Required Readings

These will include selected readings from the following (the precise readings may vary from term to term):

**Primary Sources:**
Archival materials found on the following websites through the LU library: China: Trade, Politics and Culture, 1793-1980; Confidential Print: Middle East, 1839-1969; Empire Online; India, Raj and Empire; Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985

**Secondary Sources:**
Ietmar Rothermund, *The Routledge Companion to Decolonization*. New York: Routledge,


