Imperialists, Guerillas, Poets & Terrorists: 
an Anthropology of Imperialism and Resistance
Rutgers University Newark • Department of Anthropology • Fall 2010 • 21:070:314:01

Instructor: Douglas S. Irvin  Office Hours by appointment
dougirvi@andromeda.rutgers.edu  Conklin Hall 107

Course Description & Course Goals

European imperialism altered our world, giving rise to our modern social-political systems and reshaping many of the societies involved in the interaction (both the imperial countries and the countries they colonized). What are the cultural origins of imperialism? (Are there any?) What are the cultural elements of resistance? And why is it that poems, songs, paintings, prayers, and guns can be equally effective weapons in the struggle for both domination and freedom?

This course will examine the social, cultural, and political origins of European imperialism as well as the origins of anti-imperial resistance movements. In an attempt to assess the role imperialism played in shaping both European and non-European societies and cultures, this course will draw on a wide range of interdisciplinary sources, from ethnographies to philosophy and art.

Students will be encouraged to question the assumption that imperialism is a phenomenon of the past, as we critically examine course readings that span nearly two centuries. This class will use as a point of departure the economist Joseph Schumpeter's observation in 1919 (drawing on Max Weber's Protestant work ethic thesis) that capitalism was an indigenous European behavior. We will examine the links (if there are any at all) between imperialism, capitalism, and liberalism while challenging ourselves to think of these three not merely as abstract political systems, but cultural systems as well — as particular, non-universal forms of social organization.

From Burmese and Irish resistance against the British Empire to Palestinian suicide bombers, this class will be built on a firm understanding that there are no "right" and "wrong" views and positions. This course deals with some of the more consequential debates in contemporary public life. Too often these issues are reduced to black and white, good and bad. Our goal is to examine the cultural elements of imperialism and resistance to oppression in order discover why and how people engage in such behaviors.

Texts

Required books for sale at the bookstore (RU Bookstore and NJ Books):

PDFs of required chapters and articles available on blackboard or on-line. Consider buying these if you plan to study this further:

- Joseph Schumpeter "Imperialism" (1919)
- Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1948)
- Immanuel Kant (Various selections)
- John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*

PDFs of books and articles available on blackboard that are not required reading:

- Talal Asad *On Suicide Bombing* (2007)
- Talal Asad “From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the History of Western Hegemony,” In *The Anthropology of Politics*
- Michel Foucault *Society Must Defended* (Various lectures)
- Judith Butler (Various selections)

The following is a list of books that you can use for your final project, but are not required reading. (This is a brief list of books that have shaped my own thoughts on this topic. Indeed, I am standing in front of you teaching this class thanks to these books. Throughout the semester, I will be making reference to these works. If you're curious, I encourage you to find them). Here we go:

- Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1968)
- Homi K. Bhabha “Framing Fanon.” Foreword to *The Wretched of the Earth* (2004).
- Napoleon Chagnon. "Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamo” in Yanomamo, pp. 5-13 (1997)
- Mario Vargas Llosa “Questions of Conquest.” *Harpers* (1687)
- Mao Tse-tung, *On Guerilla Warfare*
- Graham Greene, *The Quiet American***
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon***
Andre Malraux, *Man's Fate***
*Here Bullet*
John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Bruce Weigl, *Song of Napalm* and Weigl and Nguyen's edited collection, *Poems from Captured Documents* — an anthology of Vietnamese poems that were found in the captured documents of Vietnamese soldiers during the Vietnam War.

**Course Requirements**

**Grading**

- **Final Paper 20%** For your final paper (10-15 pages), students will write an argumentative paper examining a particular case study of your choosing. For example, you may wish to write about Subcomandante Marcos's use of the image of Che Guevara in the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico, the poetry and political claims of the Armed Forces of Puerto Rican National Liberation, resistance movements in Algeria or Burma that we will read about, the cultural elements in the United States case for war in Iraq, or the cultures of resistance that formed in Vietnam after World War II. The case study is up to you, as long as the papers present an original and plausible thesis drawn from course readings that is interrogated in your case study. More details will be given later when the assignment is handed out.
- **Final Exam 20%** The final exam is your chance to show me what you learned. You will be given a list of 10 essay questions. Answer 3 questions.
- **Midterm Exam 20%** You will be given a list of 5 essay questions. Answer 2 questions.
- **Quizzes 20%** There will be ten quizzes given throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of one short answer question, graded on a scale of 1 through 5 points.
- **Participation & Presentations 20%** There are over 50 students enrolled in this course, making formal student presentations impossible. Because this class is not designed to be a lecture, each week two students will give a short, informal five-minute presentation on their reactions to the day's readings. Students will be chosen at random until everyone has gone twice. Student performance on these short presentations will be counted as part of their class participation grade.

**Attendance Policy**

- You get two unexcused absences.
- Three absences and your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Over that, and you will be in jeopardy of failing the course.

**Plagiarism & Cheating**

Consult the Rutgers University official policy on academic integrity. The official university policy is my policy. Offending students will be reported to the dean's office for disciplinary action. Cheating and plagiarizing will result in an automatic 'F' for the assignment and may result in a grade of 'F' for the course.

If you feel like you are falling behind in the course and can't keep up with the workload, or feel like you can't write the paper yourself without a little help from a Google, please see me. There is no reason to risk failing a class for plagiarism just because you feel like you can't do the work yourself. Often, students think their challenges are more daunting than they really are. Come see me; we'll work through it together.
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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>9/1/10</th>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1</strong> on Said</td>
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<td>In-class movie: <em>The Battle of Algiers</em></td>
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<td>Edward Said, <em>Culture and Imperialism</em>, &quot;Introduction&quot; (pp. xi-xxviii)</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>In-class movie: <em>The Battle of Algiers</em></td>
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<td>Immanuel Kant selections on blackboard, <em>Idea for a Universal History With a Cosmopolitan Purpose</em> (pp. 41-54), and <em>Perpetual Peace</em> (this is difficult: get the key points, pp. 93-115).</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 2</strong> on Marx and Engels</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Marx and Engels, <em>The Communist Manifesto</em>, discussion</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 3</strong> on Hobson</td>
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<td>J. A. Hobson, <em>Imperialism: A Study</em>, selections on blackboard. Get the main points from Part I, Chapter I, II, &amp; III. Skim Part II Chapter III. Get his main points from Part II Chapter IV, &quot;Imperialism and the Lower Races.&quot; Read the concluding chapter &quot;The Outcome&quot; carefully.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Search the INDEX of Said for &quot;Hobson&quot; and see what Said has to say about him. Try, for example, page 83.</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 4</strong> on Schumpeter</td>
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<td>Joseph Schumpeter, <em>Imperialism</em>, selections</td>
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<td>Edward Said, <em>Culture and Imperialism</em>, Search the INDEX of Said for &quot;Schumpeter&quot; and see what Said has to say about him.</td>
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<th>Week 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 5</strong> on Lenin</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>PAPER TOPICS ASSIGNED</strong></td>
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<td>Edward Said, <em>Culture and Imperialism</em>, page 224 (read a few pages before and after to get a sense of what he is talking about in regards to nationalism and art)</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 6</strong> on Keynes</td>
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<td>John Maynard Keynes, <em>The Economic Consequences of the Peace</em>, Chapters V, VI, and VII will be the main points for the class.</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Re-cap and review</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Edward Said, <em>Culture and Imperialism</em>, Chapter I Parts I &amp; II (skim III), Chapter II Part V</td>
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## Week 8
**10/18 & 10/20 (Read up on: Southeast Asia, Burma & Vietnam)**

**Monday**  
**Quiz 7 on Arendt**  
Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, chapter on "Imperialism"

**Wednesday**  
Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, discussion  
Selections from Thyant Myint-U, *River of Lost Footsteps* selections TBD  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, page 159

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## Week 9
**10/25 & 10/27 (Read up on: Algeria and Tunisia)**

**Monday**  
**Quiz 8 on Memmi**  
Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, whole book  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter II Part III

**Wednesday**  
**PAPER TOPICS FINALIZED**  
Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, discussion  

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## Week 10
**11/1 & 11/3 (Read up on: Algeria and Tunisia)**

**Monday**  
**Quiz 9 on Fanon**  
Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* focus on Chapters I & IV, skim the others for the main points

**Wednesday**  
Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, discussion  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter III Part II

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## Week 11
**11/8 & 11/10 (Read up on: Palestine & Israel)**

**Monday**  
**Quiz 10 on Abufarha**  

**Wednesday**  

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## Week 12
**11/15 & 11/17 (Bring Fanon and Memmi to class!**)

**Monday**  

**Wednesday**  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter III Part III – poems by Yeats, Cesaire and Neruda will be handed out in class

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## Week 13
**11/22 & 11/24**

**Monday**  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter III Part III

**Wednesday**  
Thanksgiving

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## Week 14
**11/29 & 12/1**

**Monday**  
Susan Power, *The Grass Dancer*, selections TBD  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter III Part IV

**Wednesday**  
Susan Power, *The Grass Dancer*, selections TBD  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter III Part V

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## Week 15
**12/6 & 12/8**

**Monday**  
Susan Power, *The Grass Dancer*, selections TBD

**Wednesday**  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter IV Part I

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## Week 16
**12/13**

**Monday**  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Chapter IV Part II & III  
FINAL PAPER DUE

**Final exam** date and time will be announced by the university at a later date.