DECOLONIZATION

HIS 334
Fall 2024
T/Th 2:00-3:50
HSSC S3333

Elizabeth Prevost
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Office hour schedule & signup: Prevost Office Hours Fall 2024.docx

Contrary to many official narratives, the empire of *Pax Britannica* was no more peaceful or orderly at its end than at any of its stages along the way. Indeed, the demise of empire arguably created as divided, violent, and inequitable a world as the one governed by colonial rule. In this seminar, we will examine the causes, character, and consequences of the disintegration of the British imperial world order after the Second World War. Using recent studies and debates about how empire came under fire in South Asia, East Africa, and the British Isles, we will examine how and why some theatres of imperial unraveling became conflict zones, focusing particularly on the contested decolonization of archives and history itself. In the second half of the semester, students will build on this framework and on the historical treatments of colonialism and postcolonialism they have encountered in other coursework, by developing a research project on one specific aspect of decolonization.

Course objectives

Students in this course will learn to engage with and

If you need to miss class for a health issue, please let me know asap so we can both plan accordingly. Most days, it should be possible to make up for the missed class by posting a response to the readings, discussion questions, or peer review. If you miss more than one class in succession, I'm likely to flag it with Academic A

a) The relevant programs you are using for the course texts must allow in-text highlighting and annotation and quick reference to textual selections.
b) Wifi should be suspended and device should be put in airplane mode (if possible).
c) All windows and applications not being used to access course texts or take notes—including, but not limited to, email, social media, and internet browsing—must be fully closed (not just minimized) and notifications disabled.
d) When not referencing your texts or notes, please flip the laptop screen partially down, to help you engage with the other humans in the room.

These restrictions do not apply to those with specific accommodations; they will also be waived on days we are doing research exercises and peer review, or in cases when we need to incorporate virtual components into our learning space.

Trigger warnings & classroom discourse

This class investigates violence and trauma in a number of imperial and postcolonial settings; although none of the texts are overly graphic in their descriptions, the subject matter and/or specific details may be difficult to encounter. The violence of this historical record also extends to language, and texts may make reference to racist language and racial slurs. Do not speak the N-word aloud in class, even if quoting from a primary source; you may also wish to use similar judgment for other offensive language that denigrates other groups.

The following protocols follow college policy:

Disabilities

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation to the Coordinator for Disability Resources, located on the ground level floor of Steiner Hall (641-269-3124) and discuss y3 (o)-15.6 (u)-630.004 Tw 0.217 l01 .217 0 Td**[[**(t)-69**[**l)2.7 307 Tw 0.-1.3 (

Thurs, Sept 19

Class meets in Burling Library. We will be working with the Transfer of Power collection to test some of Khan's theses against primary sources. No reading due – work on the upcoming readings.

Tues, Sept 24 (class start time at 2:30; Prof Kapila will join our discussion starting 2:45)

Chapter selections from Prof. Shuchi Kapila's new book, *Postmemory and the Partition of India: Learning to Remember* (Palgrave, 2024) – Pweb

Thurs, Sept 26

Research workshop, location TBA. No reading or assignment due—work on *Imperial Reckoning*.

III. Insurgency & Counterinsurgency in East Africa

Tues, Oct 1

Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning* (whole book)

Thurs, Oct 3

Assignment: Research the initial reception of Elkins's book within the intellectual community. Please locate and read at least two reviews of the book that appeared ***before 2011****: one in a scholarly historical journal, and the other in a broader venue (such as the New York Review of Books, Times Literary Supplement, etc)ci AMCID 0.6(w)-123ie kionsyoretary iand toewere Td[:)-W9(c))-4(0)*

FALL BREAK

V. Research & Project Development

Note: You will receive more specific scaffolding stages/deadlines/instructions/guidance for your particular research groups, oriented around the form of your final product.

Tues, Oct 29: Preliminary proposals due; individual research meetings (N3140)

Thurs, Oct 31: Lighting rounds; research groups assigned (S3333)

Tues, Nov 5 & Thurs, Nov 7: Research groups meet to peer review historiography secp

Tues, Nov 12 & Thurs, Nov 14: Research groups meet to peer review [illegible]

Tues, ov 26 : Check-ins & workieNe (S3333)

Thurs, Nov 28: Thanksgiving [illegible]

Tues, Dec 3 & Thurs, Dec 5: Research groups meet to peer review semi-copppte dps (N3140)

Tues, Dec 10 & Thurs, Dec 12: Presentationp to full class (S3333)

Thurs, Dec 19: Finpp dup!