**Colonialism and the History of the British Empire: Course Description**

Lecturers: Karáth Tamás PhD and Török Gábor PhD

Classes: Friday 8:30-10:00 (Karáth Tamás) and 10:15-11:45 (Török Gábor) Tárogató #103

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Welcome to this course. We invite you to investigate the changing concepts of colonialism, to survey the historical development, growth and disintegration of the British Empire and to understand the impacts of European colonization on present-day conflicts. This introduction into the study of colonialism and postcolonial history will offer you a useful background to your ensuing literary classes in the postcolonial literatures specialization. While our focus will be the British Empire, we will attempt to grasp some general patterns of colonization and draw parallels between Britain and other colonizing powers of the modern period.

*Methods and organization*

This course is designed as a workshop preparing for the presentation of a project at an end-of-term mini-conference. Your preparation will be aided by individual consultations and tasks. The stages of this work are described in the course calendar below. Classes outside of the consultations will alternate between two modules: interactive lectures and discussions of assigned readings. The lectures will provide the context for the readings, as well as the theory for the exam. The reading-based discussion classes will elaborate on selected issues of the lectures.

*Requirements*

For the achievement of this course, you will be expected to fulfil the following tasks:

* Regular presence: a maximum of 5 times 90 minutes of absence is tolerated. Make sure you do not miss the consultation classes and the mini-conference.
* Preparation of assigned readings and active participation in class discussions
* Presentation of an individual project at the end-of-term mini-conference
* Passing an exam based on the assigned readings and the contents of the lectures

*Exam*

The course will be concluded by a written exam, which will contain fact questions related to the lectures and the assigned readings. Preparation for the exam will have to rely on the lecture ppts and your notes, and optionally on the suggested readings.

*Grading and Plagiarism*

Prerequisite for a valid course: no excessive absences; respecting the deadlines

Graded components of the course: (1) project presentation at the mini-conference (40%) and (2) written exam (60%). Participation in the class discussions will also be taken into account when deciding the final grade.

In all the tasks of this course, you are expected to respect academic ethics. If you borrow materials from other sources, you are required to clearly indicate your source. Always use academically reliable sources. Plagiarism (either deliberate or not) will be sanctioned with the failure of the respective task; serious cases of academic theft will incur the failure of the course.

*Course calendar*

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| *Dates* | | *Contents / Activity / Readings* | *Tasks and deadlines* |
| 15 Sep | 8:30-10:00 | Presentation of the course: Procedure and tasks |  |
| 10:15-11:45 | Discussion: What was before post-colonialism? Definitions of basic terms: colony, colonization and empire |
| 22 Sep | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: Medieval Colonialism on the British Isles |  |
| 10:15-11:45 | Discussion: Colonial legacy  Reading: Martin J. Wiener, “The Idea of ‘Colonial Legacy’ and the Historiography of Empire,” *The Journal of the Historical Society,* vol. 13, 2013, pp. 1-32. | (Cf. reading) |
| 29 Sep | 8:30-  10:00 | **Consultation 1**: Narrowing down the project topic | Choosing a project topic |
| 10:15-11:45 | Lecture: History of the British Empire 1: From the late 15th century to 1783 |
| 6 Oct | 8:30-10:00 | Colonialism and the Puritan settlers of North America  Readings: excerpts from Puritan writings provided via e-mail | (Cf. reading) |
| 10:15-11:45 | **Consultation 1**: Narrowing down the project topic |  |
| 13 Oct | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: Australia and New Zealand (until 1914) |  |
| 10:15-11:45 | Discussion: Australia  Readings:  (1) Governor Macquarie letter to Viscount Castlereagh, 1810 and Governor Macquarie letter to Earl of Liverpool, 1812. (Emancipist Controversy) In *A Source Book of Australian History*, ed. by Gwendolen H. Swinburne. G. Bell and Sons Ltd., 1919 <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/e00094.html>  (2) Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Transportation In *A Source Book of Australian History*, ed. Gwendolen H. Swinburne. G. Bell and Sons Ltd., 1919 <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/e00094.html> | (Cf. reading) |
| 20 Oct | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: History of the British Empire 2: 1783-1918 |  |
| 10:15-11:45 | Discussion: New Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa  Sources to be provided during the lesson |  |
| 27 Oct | 8:30-11:45 | Consultation 2: **Plan/outline of project, methods, bibliography** |  |
| 3 Nov |  | **Autumn break** |  |
| 10 Nov |  | **Wikipedia edithaton (Petőfi Literary Museum) – No class** |  |

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| 17 Nov | 8:30-10:00 | Discussion: India  Readings: (1) Macaulay’s Minute, 1835  [http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00generallinks/macaulay /txt\_minute\_education\_1835.html](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00generallinks/macaulay%20/txt_minute_education_1835.html)  (2) “The Religions of India” in *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* vol. 82, Dec. 1857, pp. 743-67.  <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/empire/1857/bem7.html> | (Cf. reading) |
| 24 Nov | 8:30-10:00 | Open discussion class |  |
| 10:15-11:45 | Lecture: The end of colonization and the beginnings of decolonization (1902-1945): South Africa, Ireland and the Middle East |  |
| 1 Dec | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: Decolonization (1945-present): India, the Caribbean, Africa and the New Commonwealth | (Cf. reading) |
| 10:15-11:45 | Discussion: Postcolonial crises in Britain  Readings: (1) Enoch Powell’s “Rivers of Blood” speech  <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/3643823/Enoch-Powells-Rivers-of-Blood-speech.html>  (2) Margaret Thatcher’s Cheltenham speech  <http://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/104989>  (3) Salman Rushdie, “The New Empire within Britain”  <http://public.wsu.edu/~hegglund/courses/389/rushdie_new_empire.htm> |  |
| 8 Dec |  | **Holiday** |  |
| 16 Dec | 8:30-11:45 | **Mini-conference** |  |

***Project information***

*Project topics*

Topics supervised by Karáth Tamás:

1. North American puritanism and the idea of civilising mission
2. The ideology of white supremacy and its institutions in British Africa
3. Racial, religious and cultural diversity in the colonial Caribbean or East Africa
4. Decolonization and British identity

Topics supervised by Török Gábor:

1. Colonization and the Australian Aborigines and the New Zealand Maoris
2. From French Canada to British Canada
3. The social and economic impact of British colonization in India
4. The ANZAC theme and the birth of modern nations (Australia and New Zealand)

*Assessment of the project presentations*

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| ***Aspects of assessment*** | ***Maximum point(s)*** |
| **I. Project** | **25** |
| 1.1 Presenting research question and outlining the problem, thesis and argument | 10 |
| 1.2 Structure | 5 |
| 1.3 Methods and use of scholarly literature | 4 |
| 1.4 Relevance | 3 |
| 1.5 Conclusions | 3 |
| **II. Oral Delivery** | **10** |
| 2.1 Fluency, pace, pauses, emphases | 4 |
| 2.2 Grammar and appropriacy | 4 |
| 2.3 Audience involvement (contact) | 2 |
| **III. PPT Design** | **5** |
| 3.1 Esthetic | 1 |
| 3.2 Visibility of text | 1 |
| 3.3 Balance of text and images | 1 |
| 3.4 ppt text (spelling, grammar, style) | 2 |
| **IV. PPT Structure and Use of Sources** | **5** |
| 4.1 Cover and contents pages | 2 |
| 4.2 List of sources | 1 |
| 4.3 Overall organization | 1 |
| 4.4 Correct use of sources (indication of the source of quotes, correct quotation marks) | 1 |
| **V. Responding to Questions** | **5** |
| **total** | **50** |