

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3340	Course Title: British Imperial Culture	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format:Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Just as Britain cannot be fully understood without attending to the British Empire, so too British literature needs to be positioned in relation to imperial narratives and tropes. As Gayatri Spivak has said, “it should not be possible to read nineteenth-century British literature without remembering that imperialism, understood as England’s social mission, was a crucial part of the cultural representation of England to the English.” Focusing on nineteenth-century prose, we will interrogate ways in which Britishness is informed by and contingent upon imperial encounters; examine representations of non-Europeans’ experience of the British Empire; and analyze the ways in which imperial narratives identify, categorize and hierarchize non-European lands and peoples. This course is designated as **reading intensive**.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

3 x response papers (1.5-2 pages): 45%
midterm exam: 25%
final exam: 30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

History of Prince Lee Boo, a Native of the Pelew Islands (1789; 1820 edition)
Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave* (1831)
Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857)
R. M. Ballantyne, *The Coral Island: A Tale of the Pacific Ocean* (1857)
H. Rider Haggard, *King Solomon’s Mines* (1885)
Flora Annie Steel, “At the Great Durbar” (1893); “Habitual Criminals” (1933)
Alice Perrin, “Caulfield’s Crime” (1892)
Rudyard Kipling, “Mowgli’s Brothers,” “Kaa’s Hunting,” “Tiger! Tiger!” *The Jungle Book* (1893)
R. L. Stevenson “The Beach of Falesá” (1892; 1893 edition)
Richard Marsh, *The Beetle* (1897)
H. G. Wells, *War of the Worlds* (1898)

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: .5 FCE in 18th- or 19th-century literature