

## 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

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| Course Code:<br>ENGL*6421 | Course Title:<br>Imperial Fantasy, Historical Resistance:<br>Approaching the Global Eighteenth<br>Century | Date of Offering:<br>Winter 2020 |
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| Course Instructor: D. O'Quinn |  |
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

This course approaches questions of empire and colonialism in the global eighteenth century from two directions. First, students will be reading a series of eighteenth-century texts (plays, poems, prose narratives) that have dominated critical discussion of British imperialism over the last three decades. We will be paying attention to how intercultural relations, violence, and relations of exchange with non-European populations have been crucial for the constitution of Europe itself, of capitalism, and many of the structural developments that have come to define social norms in the wake of the enlightenment. Second, attention will be paid to counter-discourses and forms of resistance as they are articulated not only in these more canonical texts, but also in cultural productions that are in effect writing back to empire both in the eighteenth-century and in our current moment. The course will be divided into two sections—one pertaining to the exoticism and orientalist discourse and one pertaining to slavery in the Atlantic world—which will conclude with the discussion of key works by Mona Hatoum, Yinka Shonibare, Kara Walker, M. NourBese Philip and other contemporary practitioners, who I would argue offer a place in the present from which to imagine the legacy of imperial fantasy otherwise.

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| Course Format:<br>Seminar | Methods of Evaluation and Weights:<br>Article analysis (15%)<br>Close reading (15%)<br>Podcast (30%)<br>Major paper (40%) |
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Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
Anonymous, *The Woman of Colour*  
Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (Norton)  
John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera and Polly*  
Frank Felsenstein, *English Trader, Indian Maid*  
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano,...*  
M. NourBese Philip, *Zong!*  
(Antoine Galland), *The Arabian Nights Tales*

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letters*

Alan Richardson, *The Oriental Tales* (William Beckford, *Vathek*; Lord Byron, *The Giaour*)

Mirza Sheikh I'tessamudin, selections from *The Wonders of Vilyat*

Mirza Abu Taleb, selections from *The Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan...*

+ selected work by Mona Hatoum, Yinka Shoibare, Walid Raad, Kara Walker, and others.

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