

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: F22
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Course Instructor: Michelle Ellery	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

As Gayatri Spivak has written, “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 primarily on prose from the long nineteenth century, 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; attend to imperialism’s engagement with the environment and natural resources; and analyze the implications of British identification, categorization and hierarchization of those designated as “other” in imperial narratives. The course consists of three units:

- North America: imperial environments: Mary Prince, George Copway (Kahgegahbowh), Susanna Moodie
- Oceania: imperial taxonomies: Kiro, R. M. Ballantyne, H. G. Wells
- British India: imperial extraction: Wilkie Collins, Flora Annie Steele, Toru Dutt, Sri Aurobindo (Aurobindo Ghose)

This is a reading-intensive course. It fulfills .5 FCE of the pre-1900 distribution requirements for the English major/minor.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

- 19th-c histories of place assignment (650-800 words): 20%
- Online quizzes (3 x 5%): 15%
- Writing prompt expansion (650-800 words; 3 x 15%): 45%
- Settler colonial postcard assignment: 20%

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

You will need to buy or borrow these books from the library. Since 19th-century books are out of copyright you may be able to access a free online version, however the academic editions contain notes that may be useful for understanding historical references and contexts:

- Ballantyne, R. M. *The Coral Island: A Tale of the Pacific Ocean* (1857)
- Collins, Wilkie. *The Moonstone* (1868)
- Moodie, Susanna. Excerpts from *Roughing it in the Bush; or, Forest Life in Canada* (1852)
- Prince, Mary. *History of Mary Prince* (1831)
- Wells, H. G. *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896)

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s):

This course fulfills .5 FCE of the pre-1900 distribution requirement for the English major/minor.

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

In-person lectures

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.