

Dr. Jon Cowans
Class meets: Wed. 6-9 pm, Hill 115

office hrs: Wed 5:30-6 in the classroom
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FILM AND COLONIALISM
21:510:314, sec. 62 (19768) Fall 2019

This course uses movies to examine the history of how Europeans and Americans viewed the colonies they possessed and the people under their rule. Films were many people's main source of information about this subject, and although for years films mostly justified, romanticized, or mythologized colonial rule, they also increasingly criticized colonialism and racism over time.

Students are required to complete each evening's readings and assigned film before class. In addition to learning about the subject, students will develop skills in areas such as critical thinking, writing, oral communication, reading comprehension and retention, and the analysis of fiction films.

Students are bound by the university's academic integrity policy, which appears here: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/office-dean-student-affairs/academic-integrity-policy>. If you are unsure whether something is permitted, ask the professor, as the penalties are very strict.

The readings are all in a course reader, available only at PortaPrint, 33 Halsey St., 973 622-1828.

GRADING

TESTS: There will be a midterm on Wed. Oct. 16 and a comprehensive final exam on Wed. Dec. 18, 6:20-9:20pm. The exams will involve a series of short essays. Please read the exam instructions in the reader very carefully before each exam. All students must sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge.

LECTURE QUESTIONS: Each evening consists of two sessions, separated by a break. At the end of each session, you must hand in a 3x5 card with one or more brief questions or comments on the evening's material. Grades are based on the number of sessions when you attend and hand in a card; each unexcused absence lowers this score by five points. To receive credit, your card must contain a relevant question or comment. For an absence to be excused, you must provide written evidence of a valid reason, and you must turn in all excuses by the end of the final exam.

Your overall course grade will fall by five points for each unexcused absence starting with the fourth one. Arriving late or leaving early without an excuse is pro-rated, and time missed is added up till it equals one absence. Any student who misses eight or more sessions (i.e., four full evenings) through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course; such students should withdraw from the class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Everyone is required to pay attention and to speak regularly in class, asking questions or making relevant comments. Grading is based on both the quantity and the quality of participation. Sleeping, using electronic devices (texting, etc.) in class, or repeatedly leaving the room during class will lower your score. Laptops are not allowed in this class.

QUIZZES: Several times during the semester, you will be quizzed on the readings and/or films assigned for that day. These quizzes will be unannounced. The lowest grade on the quizzes will not count.

Lecture questions	5%
Class participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	30%
Final exam	40%
	100%

9-4: Introduction: Colonialism and Film

9-11: Empire, Orientalism, and Film

“Reel History: In Defense of Hollywood” (Reading #1)

Edward Said, “Orientalism” (R-2)

“Films of Empire” (R-3)

9-18: Hollywood and the World

“Selling Movies Overseas” (R-4)

“Hollywood’s Global Distribution and the Representation of Ethnicity” (R-5)

Film: *The Bitter Tea of General Yen* (1933)

9-25: India: The Classic Empire Film

William Langer, “The Literature of Adventure” (R-6)

“Cinema and the British Empire” (R-7)

Film: *Charge of the Light Brigade* (1936)

10-2: The South Seas: Noble Savages and Colonialist Intrusion

“The Invasion of the South Pacific” (R-8)

“Western Fantasy and Sexual Politics in the South Pacific” (R-9)

Denis Diderot, “Supplement to the Voyage of Bougainville” (R-10)

Film: *His Majesty O’Keefe* (1954)

10-9: Africa: Heroic Pathfinders

“Explorers, Africans, and the Public in the Nineteenth Century” (R-11)

“Africa on Film” (R-12)

Joseph Thomson, “Through Masailand” (R-13)

Film: *King Solomon’s Mines* (1950)

10-16: Midterm

10-23: The American West: Vanishing Americans and Enduring Images

“The Vanishing American” (R-14)

“Native Americans in the Movies” (R-15)

“Changing Images of the Indian” (R-16)

Film: *Broken Arrow* (1950)

10-30: Postwar Asia: The Cold War and the Clash of Empires

“Cold War Orientalism” (R-17)

James Michener, “America and Asia” (R-18)

Film: *The King and I* (1956)

11-6: Postwar Japan: Occupation, Exploitation, Reconciliation

William L. Worden, “The G.I. Is Civilizing the Jap” (R-19)

“The American Occupation of Japan” (R-20)

“Occupation Fraternization Policies” (R-21)

Film: *Sayonara* (1957)

11-13: Wars of Decolonization

“Decolonization” (R-22)

Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence” (R-23)

“Mau Mau and the Trial of Jomo Kenyatta” (R-24)

Film: *Something of Value* (1957)

11-20: The Middle East: Empire and its Discontents

“Britain and the Arab Revolt” (R-25)

Robert Bolt, “Clues to the Legend of Lawrence” (R-26)

“The Lawrence Myth” (R-27)

Film: *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962)

12-4: Decolonization Films and the Rise of Third Worldism

“Third Worldism” (R-28)

“A Primer on the Algerian War” (R-29)

The Battle of Algiers: Interviews, Reviews, News Reports (R-30)

Film: *Battle of Algiers* (1966)

12-11: The Cinema of Contrition in the Late Twentieth Century

Jean-Paul Sartre, “Preface to *The Wretched of the Earth*” (R-31)

“The White Man’s Tears” (R-32)

Reviews of *Dances with Wolves* (R-33)

Film: *Dances with Wolves* (1990)

Final Exam: Wed. Dec. 18: 6:20 to 9:20pm

	DANA	Blackboard	Amazon	Netflix dvd
<i>The Bitter Tea of General Yen</i> (1933)	dvd790	yes	no	no
<i>Charge of the Light Brigade</i> (1936)	dvd 773	yes	yes	no
<i>His Majesty O’Keefe</i> (1954)	no	yes	yes	yes
<i>King Solomon’s Mines</i> (1950)	dvd 488	yes	yes	yes
<i>Broken Arrow</i> (1950)	dvd 421	no	yes	yes
<i>The King and I</i> (1956)	dvd 772	no	yes	no
<i>Sayonara</i> (1957)	dvd 774	yes	no	no
<i>Something of Value</i> (1957)	dvd 776	yes	yes	yes
<i>Lawrence of Arabia</i> (1962)	dvd 420	yes	yes	yes
<i>Battle of Algiers</i> (1966)	dvd 192	no	yes	yes
<i>Dances with Wolves</i> (1990)	dvd 424	yes	yes	yes

Most films may be viewed for free on Blackboard (under “Assignments”), though you may need to download Microsoft Silverlight. If you experience problems, try a browser other than Google Chrome. Films on Amazon usually rent for \$3 or \$4 and may be viewed on any computer and some TVs. Netflix may also offer streaming as well as DVDs for some of these films.

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at [\(973\)353-5375](tel:9733535375) or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.