

Dr. Jon Cowans  
Class meets: Wed. 6-9pm, Conklin 446

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**FILM AND COLONIALISM**  
21:510:314, sec. 62 (18890) Spring 2016

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 – or only – 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. 19 and a comprehensive final exam on Wed. Dec. 21 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. 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. You will get separate scores for the two halves of the semester, and your final score will average the two. 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 .....	20%
Midterm .....	25%
Final exam .....	40%
	100%

## **9-7: Introduction: Colonialism and Film**

### **9-14: Empire, Orientalism, and Film**

“Reel History” (Reading #1)

Edward Said, “Orientalism” (R-2)

“Films of Empire” (R-3)

### **9-21: 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)

### **9-28: India: The Classic Empire Film**

“The Literature of Adventure” (R-6)

“Cinema and the British Empire” (R-7)

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

### **10-5: 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)

### **10-12: 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)

## **10-19: Midterm**

### **10-26: 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)

### **11-2: 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)

### **11-9: 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)

### **11-16: 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)

### **11-30: 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)

### **12-7: Decolonization Films and the Rise of Third Worldism**

“Third Worldism” (R-29)

“A Primer on the Algerian War” (R-30)

*The Battle of Algiers*: Interviews, Reviews, News Reports (R-31)

**Film:** *Battle of Algiers* (1966)

### **12-14: The Cinema of Contrition in the Late Twentieth Century**

Jean-Paul Sartre, “Preface to *The Wretched of the Earth*” (R-32)

“The White Man’s Tears” (R-33)

Reviews of *Dances with Wolves* (R-34)

**Film:** *Dances with Wolves* (1990)

### **Final Exam: Wed. Dec. 21: 6:20 to 9:20pm**

	DANA	Swank	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	no	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

Films on Swank may be viewed for free on Blackboard; films on Amazon usually rent for \$3 or \$4 and may be viewed on any computer and some TVs. Netflix may also offer streaming for some of these films.