

LT295 Imperialism and the European Novel

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-2pm or by appointment



The territories colonized or otherwise claimed by the nineteenth-century European powers left their trace on the novel form in surprising and indelible ways. Though often “out of sight” and apparently “out of mind” for the main protagonists of the best-known works, occluded, exploited regions of the globe reappear as the specter of shameful past or repressed nightmare, or as the secret motivation for behavioral codes shaping the self and its ostensible social standards. In the unfolding of plot and the arrangement of space, as well as the symptoms of language, what was relegated to the margins becomes irrefutably central, and turns out to be a determining factor in the shaping of genre itself. We will read classic novels of the nineteenth-century English, French and German traditions, addressing historical contexts of the expansion of empires that competed for hegemony in the lead-up to World War I, and theories of the relationship between imperialism and the novel. Authors read are Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Theodor Fontane, André Gide.

Requirements

Attendance at and participation in classes; completion of in-class assignments; completion of all written work. Drafts can be submitted in advance of the paper deadlines, for feedback and revision.

Course Texts

The following books must be purchased. All other readings will be provided.

Jane Austen *Mansfield Park* (Oxford World's Classics)

ISBN-10: 0199535531

ISBN-13: 978-0199535538

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Oxford World's Classics)

ISBN-10: 9780199535590

ISBN-13: 978-0199535590

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (Oxford World's Classics)

ISBN-10: 0199219761

ISBN-13: 978-0199219766

Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (Oxford World's Classics)

ISBN-10: 0199675643

ISBN-13: 978-0199675647

André Gide, *The Immoralist* (Penguin Modern Classics)

ISBN-10: 9780141182995

ISBN-13: 978-0141182995

Assignments

Weekly reading; 2 in-class presentations; two papers, the first of 3000 words, the second of 3500 words, due respectively on March 21 and May 15.

Grade Breakdown

Preparation and participation: 30%; In-class presentations: 20% Midterm Paper: 20%; Final Paper: 30%

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation. Bard College Berlin may not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

Weekly Schedule

Wednesday January 31

Introduction: *from* Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944; 2022); *from* Caroline Eakin, *Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire* (2022); *from* Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Wednesday February 7

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (1814)

Wednesday February 14

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (1814)

Wednesday February 21

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (1814)

Edward Said, "Jane Austen and Empire" (1993)

George E. Bouloukos, "The Politics of Silence: Mansfield Park and the Amelioration of Slavery" (2006)

Wednesday February 28

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

Wednesday March 6

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

Wednesday March 13

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)

Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, "A Dialogue of Self and Soul: Plain Jane's Progress" (1979)

Gayatri Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism" (1985)

Wednesday March 20

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1861)

Midterm Paper: Thursday March 21 at 10pm

Spring Break March 25-April 1

Wednesday April 3

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1861)

Edward Said, "Narrative and Social Space" (1993)

Grace Moore, "Empires and Colonies" (2011)

Wednesday April 10

Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (1895)

Wednesday April 17

Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (1895)

Shelley Baranowski, "From Imperial Consolidation to Global Ambitions: Imperial Germany 1871-1914" (2011)

Geoffrey Baker, "The Imaginative Geography of *Effi Briest*" (2009)

Wednesday April 24

André Gide, *The Immoralist* (1902)

Wednesday May 1 Federal Holiday

Wednesday May 8

André Gide, *The Immoralist* (1902)

from Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (1957)

Edward Said, "There Are Two Sides" (1993)

Final Paper: Tuesday May 15 at 10pm