

HTS 3063 -- OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE: COMPARATIVE
HISTORY OF BRITISH COLONIZATION

Lawrence Foster
316 DM Smith Building
Phone: 404-894-6845
e-mail: larry.foster@hts.gatech.edu

Fall Semester 2008
M, W, F, 10:00 a.m.

Great Britain created one of the largest and most successful European colonial empires of the past five hundred years. In addition to establishing overseas trading centers and imposing British control over native populations in areas such as India and Africa, Great Britain also founded colonies that included many settlers from the mother country. The United States has the largest population and exercises the greatest influence of the nations that were settled by people from the British Isles. Most Americans, however, know little about the other British-settled regions that became modern nations--Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa.

This course will focus on these four other "outposts of empire," whose histories have striking similarities with and differences from that of the United States. We shall look in turn at the reasons for the initial settlement of each of these areas; differing patterns of race relations and ethnicity; the development of a sense of autonomy and national identity; and relations with the United States. Our larger goal will be to see which aspects of each of these societies are similar and which are different, and to assess the interactions between cultural background and environmental factors. Learning more about these sister societies to the United States may help us better to understand our own country, as well.

Evaluation in this course will be based on three mid-semester exams (indicated in the outline on the next page), on a book review or research paper, and on a final comprehensive exam. Other forms of evaluation may also be used. The exams will be based both on the required reading and on the class lecture/discussions.

Each of the required books provides an introduction to one of the countries we are studying:

Stuart Macintyre, A Concise History of Australia, 2d ed.
Tom Brooking, Milestones: Turning Points in New Zealand
History, 2d ed.
J. M. S. Careless, Canada: A Story of Challenge
Leonard Thompson, A History of South Africa, third edition

The class sessions will combine lecture and discussion, films, slides, and outside speakers. Since the required readings only provide a taste of the histories of these countries, each student will be expected to write either a book review or a research paper of 6 to 10 pages in length on a topic related to one or more of these countries. This special reading or research will allow students to gain a greater understanding of a particular area and will encourage more lively discussion.

PLEASE TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, come on time at the scheduled beginning of class (no later than 10:05 a.m.), and be prepared to participate in class discussions on the assigned readings.

Class roll will be taken after the first week. More than six (6) unexcused absences from class (the equivalent of two full weeks of class) will be grounds for reduction in the student's overall course grade by as much as a full level (ten points).

Throughout this course, all students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech Honor Code.

OUTLINE OF CLASS TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

I. Introduction to the Comparative Study of British Colonization

August 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29

Readings: Articles to be supplied in class or by using on-line Library reserve

NO CLASS: Monday, September 1--Labor Day Holiday

I. Australia

September 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17

Reading: Stuart Macintyre, A Concise History of Australia, 2d ed.

Film, slides, or speaker on Australia

EXAM #1 on Topics I and II -- Friday, September 19

III. New Zealand

September 22, 24, 26, 29; October 1, 3, 6, 8

Reading: Tom Brooking, Milestones: Turning Points in New Zealand History, 2d ed.

Film, slides, or speaker on New Zealand

EXAM #2 on Topic III -- Monday, October 10

NO CLASS -- Monday October, 13--School Holiday

IV. Canada

October 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31

Readings: J. M. S. Careless, Canada: A Story of Challenge (selections)

John Saywell, Canada: Past and Present (selections)

Film or speaker on Canada

EXAM #3 on Topics IV -- Monday, November 3

V. South Africa

November 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26; December 3, 5

Reading: Leonard Thompson, A History of South Africa, rev. ed.

Films or speaker on South Africa

BOOK REVIEWS due -- Monday, November 17

NO CLASS--Friday, November 28--Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

VI. Concluding Discussion of the Comparative Histories of British Settlement Colonies

December 5

FINAL EXAM -- Thursday, December 12, 2:50 p.m.

HTS 3063 -- British Colonization
Lawrence Foster -- Fall Semester 2008
READING ASSIGNMENTS:

August 18--begin Thompson and Lamar, "Comparative Frontier History"
August 20--begin A. P. Thornton, "Fragments"
August 22/25--begin Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"
August 27--begin, Russel Ward, "Australia Today"
August 29--begin Macintyre, A Concise History of Australia, chapters 1-2

NO CLASS--September 1 -- Labor Day Holiday

September 3--begin Macintyre, chapter 3-4
September 5--begin Macintyre, chapter 5
September 8--begin Macintyre, chapter 6
September 10--begin Macintyre, chapter 7
September 12--begin Macintyre, chapter 8
September 15--begin Macintyre, chapter 10
September 17--review for EXAM #1

EXAM #1 -- Friday, September 19

September 19--begin Brooking, Milestones, pp. 1-24
September 22--begin Brooking, pp. 25-37
September 24--begin Brooking, pp. 38-55
September 26--begin Brooking, pp. 56-87
September 29--begin Brooking, pp. 88-107
October 1--begin Brooking, pp. 108-145
October 3--begin Brooking, pp. 146-176
October 6--begin Brooking, pp. 177-204
October 8--review for EXAM #2

EXAM #2 -- Monday, October 10

October 10--begin Careless, Canada: A Story of Challenge, chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-28)

NO CLASS -- Monday, October 13--School Holiday

October 15--begin Careless, chapters 3-5 (pp. 31-72)

October 17--begin Careless, chapters 6-7 (pp. 73-115)
October 20--begin Careless, chapter 8 pp. (116-144)
October 22--begin Careless, chapters 10-11 (pp. 164-206)
October 24--begin Careless, chapters 13-14 (pp. 230-275)
October 27--begin Saywell, Canada: Past and Present, pp. 25-61
October 29--begin Saywell, pp. 62-85

October 31--Review for EXAM #3

EXAM #3: Monday, November 3

November 3--begin Thompson, History of South Africa, chapter 1
November 5--begin Thompson, chapter 2
November 7--begin Thompson, chapter 3
November 10--begin Thompson, chapter 4

November 12/14--Work on Book Reviews

BOOK REVIEWS DUE -- Monday, November 17

November 19--begin Thompson, chapter 5
November 21--begin Thompson, chapter 6
November 24--begin Thompson, chapter 7
November 26--begin Thompson, chapter 8

NO CLASS -- Friday, November 28--Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

December 1--begin Thompson, chapter 9
December 3/5--review for FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM -- Thursday, December 12, 2:50 p.m.