

European Expansion in Asia

History 340P
MWF 10-11
GAR 1. 126

Gail Minault

Textbooks

Required:

Janet Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony
J.H. Parry, The Age of Reconnaissance
K.N. Chaudhuri, Trade & Civilisation in the Indian Ocean
Barbara and Thomas Metcalf, A Concise History of India
D.R. Sardesai, Southeast Asia: Past & Present (latest edn.)
Outline Maps of: (1) Asia, (2) SE Asia/Indonesia, and (3) India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka
for the map assignments – These maps are usually at the info. counter in the
basement of the Coop.

One of the following:

Stewart Gordon, When Asia Was the World
Michael Fisher, ed., Visions of Mughal India

One of the following:

David Liss, The Coffee Trader
David Liss, A Conspiracy of Paper

This course is about the age of discovery and the overall effect of East-West contacts in the early modern period. After a discussion of trade and cultural relations on the eve of the age of discovery, we will look at the expansion into South and Southeast Asia of the Portuguese, Dutch, British and French from approximately 1400 to 1800, the period when European explorers, freebooters, merchants, missionaries, and administrators went to “the Indies” in search of adventure, riches, spices, souls, and power. We will examine the backgrounds to that expansion, the technology that made it possible, the cultures that the Europeans came into contact with, the scientific and cultural repercussions of that expansion, and the trade between Europe and Asia, not only of goods, but also of ideas.

Requirements for the course include the assigned readings, two map assignments, two book reports, one hour exam (on **Oct. 21**), and a take-home final. See summary of due dates (next page). See also separate sheets for details about map assignments and book reports. The book report sheet also contains information concerning the Undergraduate Writing Center, an excellent resource to help you with your writing. I do not give makeup exams and late papers will be penalized. Cases of illness will, of course, be accommodated with the appropriate medical documentation.

Grading will be on the basis of the new system of pluses and minuses. Grades for each written assignment/exam will be 25% of the total. The map assignments will be checked for accuracy, but not graded (because doing them is the point of the exercise), but if you don't do a map, it will count against your final grade. For students with

disabilities: Please request appropriate academic accommodation from the Division of Diversity, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. Do so early in the semester, so that appropriate measures can be taken before major assignments are due.

I welcome and appreciate questions in class, so do not be afraid to raise your hand and stop me in mid-sentence. If you prefer, you may ask questions after class that I can address at the beginning of the next class. I enjoy meeting my students personally and urge you to visit my office at least once during the semester. My office is Garrison 3.118. Office hours: MW 1:30-3 or by appointment on Fri. 1:30-3. My office phone is 475-7214. Please do not call me at home; send me an email instead: gminault@mail.utexas.edu

Summary of due dates:

First book report: Friday, Sept. 25.

First map assignment: Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Mid-term exam: Wednesday, October 21 (no makeups; you must be here for this)

Second map assignment: Monday, Nov. 9

Second book report: Friday, Nov. 20

Take-home exam: Pick up on Friday, December 4 (last day of class)

Due: Tuesday, Dec. 15 between 9:00 AM and Noon (which is the exam time for this class day and time) – or earlier if you wish.

Reading Assignments

Aug. 26 - Introduction to the course

I. The World on the Eve of European Expansion

Aug. 28 - Overview

Read: J. Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony, pp. 3-32, 43-49.

Aug. 31 - Northern European Patterns of Trade

Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 51-70, 78-79, 88-98.

Sept. 2 - Mediterranean Patterns of Trade

Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 103-08, 111-31.

Optional: Parry, Age of Reconnaissance, pp. 38-52.

Sept. 4 - The Mongol Peace

Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 137-49, 153-54, 170-83.

Note: Start reading book for your book report; remember there is an additional research component to that assignment (see separate sheet).

Sept. 7 - Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 9 - The Muslim World as Middleman I
 Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 185-93, 197-209.

Sept. 11 - The Muslim World as Middleman II
 Read: Abu Lughod, pp. 216-30, 236-44.
 Recommended: K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 9-33.

II. The Technology of Discovery

Sept. 14 - Scientific Inquiry
 Read: Parry, pp. 1-16.

Sept. 16 – Ships, Sails, Guns
 Read: Parry, pp. 53-68; (Optl.: pp. 69-82).
 K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 138-59.

Sept. 18 - Video: “The Ancient Mariners” – What we can learn from underwater archeology

Sept. 21 – Navigation & Cartography
 Read: Parry, pp. 83-99; (Optl.: 100-113).
 K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 121-37

Sept. 23 – Printing and the Transmission of Knowledge
 Read: Parry, pp. 114-27

Sept. 25 - Financial Dealings
Note: 1st book report due.
 Read: Parry, pp. 38-52 (also read for Sept. 2)

III. The Trading World of Asia

Sept. 28 - India
 Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 251-60, 261-67, 270-76, 282-86.
 Metcalf & Metcalf, pp. 1-14.
 Optl. for this week: K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 34-62.

Sept. 30 - The Indies
 Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 296-313.
 Sardesai, Southeast Asia, pp. 5-7, 14-21, 22-32.
Note: 1st Map assignment due (see separate sheet).

Oct. 2 - China
 Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 320-27, 343-48.
 Recommended (good preview): GV Scammell, “After Da Gama: Europe and Asia since 1498,” Modern Asian Studies, 34, 3 (July 2000): 513-43 (on e-reserve)

IV. The Age of Discovery

Oct. 5 - Portugal: "The Street Corner of Europe"

Read: Parry, pp. 19-37

Recommended: S. Subrahmanyam, Portuguese Empire in Asia, pp. 9-29 (eres).

Oct. 7 - Portuguese Pioneers

Read: Parry, pp. 131-45.

Rec.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 30-54 (eres).

Oct. 9 - Atlantic Rivalries

Read: Parry, pp. 146-62.

Rec.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 55-62 (eres).

Oct. 12 – Indian Ocean Competition

Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 63-79.

Rec.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 62-79 (eres).

Oct. 14 - Structure of Portuguese Asia

Read: Parry, pp. 190-201, 242-49.

Sardesai, pp. 63-66.

Oct. 16 - American Silver and Other Unsettling Changes

Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 203-220.

Oct. 19 - Review

Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 352-72.

Oct. 21 - **Mid-Term Exam** - You must be here for this

V. Empires of Trade

Oct. 23 - The Dutch Republic and Its East India Co.

Read for next 2 lectures: Chaudhuri, pp. 80-97.

Parry, pp. 249-57.

Oct. 26 - The British East India Co.

Read: Metcalf & Metcalf, pp 43-49.

Oct. 28 - Maritime Societies and the Indian Ocean Trade

Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 98-118.

Sardesai, pp. 43-50, 51-52, 56-62.

Oct. 30 - Landed Societies: The "Gunpowder Empires"

Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 160-181.

- Nov. 2 - Mughal India
Read: M & M, pp. 14-27.
- Nov. 4 - The Dutch Take the Indies Spice Trade
Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 138-59 (repeat, see “Ships” 9/23).
Sardesai, pp. 66-69.
- Nov. 6 - The British Diversify in India
Read: M & M, pp. 43-49 (repeat, see 10/31), 49-54.
Chaudhuri, pp. 182-202.
- Nov. 9 - The French East India Co.
2nd Map Assignment due (see separate sheet)
- Nov. 11 - 18th Century India: Mughal Decline & Regional Assertion
Read: M & M, pp. 28-43.
- Nov. 13 - Anglo-French Rivalries in the 18th Century
Read: M & M, pp. 55-67.
- Nov. 16 - The British Transition from Trade to Dominion
Read: M & M, pp. 67-80.
Parry, pp. 297-302.
- Nov. 18 - Southeast Asia: The Dutch Coffee Co.
Read: Sardesai, pp. 87-99.
- Nov. 20 - The French in Southeast Asia
Read: Sardesai, pp. 69-70, 36-42, 78-81 (Optl.: 125-32).
2nd Paper due (see separate sheet).
- VI. Cultural Aspects of the East-West Trade
- Nov. 23 - Scientific Inquiry in the 18th Century
Read: Parry, pp. 321-27.
Chaudhuri, pp. 221-28.
- Nov. 25 - Nabobs: Going Native and Other Approaches to Life in the East
Recommended: Percival Spear, The Nabobs, pp. 126-45 (ereserves).
Reread: Scammell, “After DaGama,” pp. 530-43 (“”).
- Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 30 - The Enlightenment and the Orient
Read: M & M, pp. 80-90.

Dec. 2 - Revolutions: Industrial, American, and French - Their Impact on the Empires of Trade

Optl: Sometime this week: Video of “Master and Commander” – room and time TBA.

Dec. 4 - Final discussion and Review; Student Evaluation

Take-Home exam will be handed out, to be due on Tuesday, December 15, between 9 AM and Noon (date and time of regularly scheduled exam for this class period).