European Expansion in Asia

History 340P, 39295; ANS 340P, 31460
Gail Minault
MWF 10-11
GAR 1. 126

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 (6th edn.)

Outline Maps of: (1) Asia, (2) SE Asia/Indonesia, and (3) India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka for the map assignments will be handed out with the map assignment sheets

One of the following:
Stewart Gordon, When Asia Was the World
Michael Fisher, ed., Visions of Mughal India (for internet access, see note on book report assignment sheet)

One of the following:
David Liss, The Coffee Trader
David Liss, A Conspiracy of Paper

This course carries a “Global Cultures” flag, and 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.

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: gminault@mail.utexas.edu

Requirements for the course include the assigned readings, two map assignments, two book reports, one hour exam (on Oct. 19), and a take-home final. See summary of due dates (next page). See 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. Papers handed in late will be penalized (see book report assignment sheet for details). I accept medical excuses, but only if you notify me by the due date of the assignment, with appropriate
medical documentation. For exams, I expect you to be here except in cases of dire emergency (usually medical). If you have to miss an exam for any reason (religious holiday, academic trip out of town, scheduled surgery, etc.) you must notify me in advance. 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.

Grading will be on the basis of the 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.

Summary of due dates:
First book report: Friday, Sept. 23.
First map assignment: Wednesday, Sept. 28.
Mid-term exam: Wednesday, October 19 (no makeups; plan to be here for this)
Second book report: Friday, Nov. 4
Take-home exam: Pick up on Friday, December 2 (last day of class)
   Due: Wednesday, Dec 7, 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. 24 - Introduction to the course

I. The World on the Eve of European Expansion
Aug. 26 - Overview
   Read: J. Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony, pp. 3-32, 43-49.

Aug. 29 - Northern European Patterns of Trade

Aug. 31 - Mediterranean Patterns of Trade
   Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 103-08, 111-31.
   Optional: Parry, Age of Reconnaissance, pp. 38-52.

Sept. 2 - The Mongol Peace
   Note: Start reading book for your book report; remember there is an additional research component to that assignment (see separate sheet).

Sept. 5 - Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 7 - The Muslim World as Middleman I
   Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 185-93, 197-209.
Sept. 9 - The Muslim World as Middleman II
Read: Abu Lughod, pp. 216-30, 236-44.

II. The Technology of Discovery
Sept. 12 - Scientific Inquiry
Read: Parry, pp. 1-16.

Sept. 14 – Ships, Sails, Guns
Read for next two classes: Parry, pp. 53-68, 114-27; (Optl.: pp. 69-82).

Sept. 16 - Video: “The Ancient Mariners” – What we can learn from underwater archeology

Sept. 19 – Navigation & Cartography
K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 121-37

Sept. 21 – Printing and the Transmission of Knowledge
Read: Parry, pp. 100-113.

Sept. 23 - Financial Dealings
Note: 1st book report due.
Read: Parry, pp. 38-52 (optl. reading for Aug. 31)

III. The Trading World of Asia
Sept. 26 - India
Optl. for this week: K.N. Chaudhuri, pp. 34-62.

Sept. 28 - The Indies
Read: Abu-Lughod, pp. 296-313.
Sardesai, Southeast Asia, pp. 6-8, 14-20, 21-30.
Note: 1st Map assignment due (see separate sheet).

Sept. 30 - China

IV. The Age of Discovery
Oct. 3 - Portugal: “The Street Corner of Europe”
Read: Parry, pp. 19-37
Optional: S. Subrahmanyam, Portuguese Empire in Asia, pp. 9-29 (Blackboard).
Oct. 5 - Portuguese Pioneers
   Read: Parry, pp. 131-45.
   Optl.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 30-54 (Blackboard).

Oct. 7 - Atlantic Rivalries
   Read: Parry, pp. 146-62.
   Optl.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 55-62 (BB).

Oct. 10 – Indian Ocean Competition
   Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 63-79.
   Optl.: Subrahmanyam, pp. 62-79 (BB).

Oct. 12 - Structure of Portuguese Asia
   Read: Parry, pp. 190-201, 242-49.
   Sardesai, pp. 59-62.

Oct. 14 - American Silver and Other Unsettling Changes
   Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 203-220.

Oct. 17 - Review

Oct. 19 - **Mid-Term Exam** - You must be here for this

V. Empires of Trade
Oct. 23 - The Dutch Republic and Its East India Co.
   Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 80-97.
   Parry, pp. 249-57.

Oct. 24 - The Dutch and the Indies Spice Trade
   Read: Chaudhuri, pp. 98-118, 138-59 (repeat, see “Ships” 9/14).
   Sardesai, pp. 40-47, 48-49, 54-58, 62-64.

Oct. 26 - Landed Societies: The “Gunpowder Empires”

Oct. 28-31 – British Society and the East India Co. – 2 lectures
   Read for next 2 lectures: Metcalf & Metcalf, pp 43-54.
   Chaudhuri, pp. 182-202

Nov. 2 - Day off to work on your book reports (Liss Novels, see separate sheet).

Nov. 4 - The French East India Co.
   **2nd Paper due** (see separate sheet).
Nov. 7 – Mughal India

Nov. 9 - 18th Century India: Mughal Decline & Regional Assertion
Read: M & M, pp. 28-43.

Nov. 11 - Anglo-French Rivalries in the 18th Century

Nov. 14 - The British Transition from Trade to Dominion
Read: M & M, pp. 67-80.
Parry, pp. 297-302.
2nd Map Assignment due (see separate sheet).

Nov. 16 - Southeast Asia: The Dutch Coffee Co.
Read: Sardesai, pp. 81-91.

Nov. 18 - The French in Southeast Asia
Read: Sardesai, pp. 64-65, 33-39, 73-75 (Optl.: 114-20).

VI. Cultural Aspects of the East-West Trade
Nov. 21 - Scientific Inquiry in the 18th Century
Read: Parry, pp. 321-27.
Chaudhuri, pp. 221-28.

Nov. 23 - Nabobs: Going Native and Other Approaches to Life in the East

Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 28 - The Enlightenment and the Orient
Read: M & M, pp. 80-90.

Nov. 30 - Revolutions: Industrial, American, and French and the Empires of Trade

Dec. 2 - Final discussion and Review; Student Evaluation
Take-Home exam will be handed out, to be due on Wednesday, December 7, between 9 AM and Noon (date and time of regularly scheduled exam for this class period).