LISS1017 Wealth and Poverty: The Making of the Modern World

Module Syllabus

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Other module staff: Andrew Morton
Module summary
The module examines the profound socio-economic and political effects of the Western colonialism on the making of the modern world and what some of the responses to colonialism have been from peoples in the Global South. It thereby introduces some key features of the global political economy, past and present, including the role of subordination, domination and violence in the processes of surplus production and appropriation and the demand for social justice and social change throughout the history of the making of the modern world. The module is based on the premise that colonialism had profound effects on the formation of the modern world and that this historical knowledge is necessary for an understanding of its contemporary condition.

Objectives
To examine the drivers, characteristics and repercussions of European colonialism and to explore the role that colonialism in the Americas, Africa and Asia played in the making of the modern world. A particular link will be made between the expansion of colonialism and the development of industrialisation in Europe. The module also explores what the impact of colonialism has been in the modern world and what its continuing legacies may be. The module furthermore pays attention to similarities and differences regarding some key features of the global political economy, past (during the era of colonialism) and present, e.g. the issue of forced labour (i.e. modern day slavery). Throughout the module students will be introduced to some of the relevant key concepts in social sciences to further the analysis.

Learning outcomes
- To have an appreciation of the historical factors underlying differences in levels of social and economic development between countries in the industrialised 'North' and those in the developing 'South'
- Be familiar with the processes of subordination and domination which facilitated both the expansion of European industrialisation and the incorporation of colonised regions into the emerging world capitalist economy
- Understand the relationship between colonialism and the development of capitalism
- Understand the role of subordination, domination, violence, and theft in the production and reproduction of wealth and poverty

Teaching methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Length hours</th>
<th>Student hours</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>On-line Learning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private study hours</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>Total Contact hours</td>
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<td>Total hours (100hr per 10 credits)</td>
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Private study
15 hour preparatory VLE work before the module starts: readings, 3 short preparation tasks. 43 hours private study during module: readings, preparing for daily seminar discussions, assessment preparations.

Methods of assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>% of formal assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>1500 words</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
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Late Penalties
University rules on penalties for late submission of coursework require 5 full marks to be deducted for each calendar day that passes after the date of required submission. If coursework is not submitted by the end of 14 calendar days following the prescribed deadline, a grade/mark of zero will be returned for that component.

Module outline

Week One
Day 1: The making of the modern world: colonialism, capitalism and inequality
Day 2: The Americas
Day 3: Transatlantic slave trade and slavery
Day 4: India/Africa
Day 5: Trip to Manchester

Week Two
Day 6: Africa
Day 7: Culture and development
Day 8: Gender, rights and "empowerment"
Day 9: Presentations and final exercise

Books
- Isbister *Promises not kept: poverty and the betrayal of Third World development*
- Stavrianos *Global rift: the Third World comes of age*
- Wolf *Europe and the people without history*
- Waites *Europe and the Third World: from colonization to decolonization, c.1500-1998*
- Allen and Thomas *Poverty and Development into the 21st Century*
- Anievas and Nisancioglu *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism*
- White *A Global History of the Developing World*
Readings

Day 1
Required readings

Recommended readings
- McMichael Development and social change: a global perspective, ch. ‘Instituting the development project’

Day 2
Required
- Galeano, E. (1973) Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent, part 1.1 ‘Lust for gold, lust for silver’

Recommended

Day 3
Required
- Williams, E. (1964) Capitalism and Slavery, ch.3 ‘British Commerce and the Triangular Trade’

Recommended
- Wolf (1997) Europe and the people without history, ch.7: ‘The slave trade’
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- Inikori and Engerman eds. (1992) *The Atlantic slave trade: effects on economies, societies, and peoples in Africa, the Americas, and Europe*, ‘Introduction’

**Day 4**
**Required**

**Recommended:**

**Day 5**
- Waites, B. (1999) *Europe and the Third World*, ch. 6 ‘The economic and social consequences of Modern Colonialism in Africa’
- Stavrianos (1981) *Global Rift: The Third World Comes of Age*, ch. 14

**Day 6**
**Required**
- Waylen (1996) *Gender in Third World Politics*, ch.3 ‘Colonialism’
- Etienne (1997) ‘Women and men, cloth and colonization: the transformation of production-distribution relations among the Baulé (Ivory Coast)’, in Grinker and Steiner, eds. *Perspectives on Africa: a reader in culture, history, and representation*
- Green (1991) *Faces of Latin America*, ch.2 ‘Promised Land: Land ownership, power and conflict’

**Recommended**

**Day 7**
**Required**

• Gruffydd Jones, B. (2009) Explaining Global Poverty, ch. ‘The presence of the outside’

Recommended
• Hargreaves, J.D. (1996) Decolonization in Africa, ch.8
• Spybey (1992) Social change, development and dependency: modernity, colonialism and the development of the West, ch.9 ‘The Identification of the Third World and the Recognition of Dependency’