

HUM 2273: Asia, Colonialism, Film

Fall 2023 • CRN 85774 • Fridays 11:00 – 1:45 in BSN 1403

Instructor: Dr. William Cummings (wcummings@usf.edu)

Office Hours: Fridays 10:00 – 11:00am in CPR 371 and by appointment

I. Introduction

Welcome to **HUM 2273: Asia, Colonialism, Film**! This course looks at interactions between Asia and the West by focusing on one of the most important and controversial aspects of this historical interaction: the creation, expansion, and resistance to colonial regimes. With few exceptions, all the countries of Asia were at one time or another colonized, most often by Western nations. In some cases, as we will see, Asian nations were colonizers as well. The goal of this class is to use the power of four feature films – set in New Zealand, India, Vietnam, and China – as a vehicle to explore how colonialism varied in different places and times, how it operated in everyday life, and the different impacts it had on both colonized and colonizer.

II. Course Modality

This 100% in-person course will be offered using some features of USF's learning management system, Canvas. If you need help learning how to perform various tasks related to this course or other courses being offered in Canvas, please consult the Canvas help guides. You may also contact USF's IT department at (813) 974-1222 or help@usf.edu.

III. University Catalog Course Description

"This course examines the different ways Westerners have viewed, understood, and made sense of Asia since the 15th-century."

IV. Course Prerequisites

None.

V. Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand colonialism as a universal experience in human history
- Describe how colonialism varied in different periods and places in Asia
- Analyze the strengths and limitations in how films depict colonialism
- Compare representations of colonialism in different films

VI. Required Texts and/or Readings and Course Materials

PDF course readings available on Canvas. No textbook purchase required.

VII. Communication

When you send me an email, make sure you use your official USF email account so that I know who you are and we have an electronic record. I aim to answer all email within 24 hours.

VIII. Grading Scale %

93 – 100	A	73 – 76	C
90 – 92	A-	70 – 72	C-
87 – 89	B+	67 – 69	D+
83 – 86	B	63 – 66	D
80 – 82	B-	60 – 62	D-
77 – 79	C+	0 – 59	F

IX. How Your Grade Is Calculated

50% of final grade 11 Quizzes with the lowest score dropped (multiple choice, based on weekly readings, and taken online through Canvas any time in the 24 hours before class on Friday)

50% of final grade Weekly Class Attendance & Participation (including in-class writing, 1 absence permitted from 11 scheduled meetings)

X. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Aug 25	Course Introduction	---
2	Sep 1	<i>Utu</i> , part 1	Quiz 1 on Curtin
3	Sep 8	<i>Utu</i> , part 2	Quiz 2 on Belich
4	Sep 15	<i>Utu</i> , part 3	Quiz 3 on Cozens
5	Sep 22	<i>The Chess Players</i> , part 1	Quiz 4 on Wolpert
6	Sep 29	<i>The Chess Players</i> , part 2	Quiz 5 on Sramek
7	Oct 6	<i>The Chess Players</i> , part 3	Quiz 6 on Rajan
8	Oct 13	<i>Indochine</i> , part 1	Quiz 7 on Karnow
9	Oct 20	<i>Indochine</i> , part 2	Quiz 8 on Del Testa
10	Oct 27	<i>Indochine</i> , part 3	Quiz 9 on Kelly
11	Nov 3	<i>The Human Condition</i> , part 1	Quiz 10 on Hane and Perez
12	Nov 10	- No class -	---
13	Nov 17	<i>The Human Condition</i> , part 2	Quiz 11 on Mishima
14	Nov 24	- No class -	---
15	Dec 1	Course Takeaways	---

* Note: Schedule is subject to revision if circumstances require.

XI. General Education Statement

This course is part of the University of South Florida's Enhanced General Education Curriculum. It is certified for CAGC - Human & Cultural Diversity in a Global Context. Students enrolled in this course may be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This will involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review via Canvas.

XII. USF Core Syllabus Policies

USF has a set of central policies related to student recording class sessions, academic integrity and grievances, student accessibility services, academic disruption, religious observances, academic continuity, food insecurity, and sexual harassment that **apply to all courses at USF**. Be sure to review these online: usf.edu/provost/faculty-success/resources-policies-forms/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx

XIII. Course Policies:

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for quizzes and assignments. Rare exceptions to this policy may be granted at the professor's discretion in exceptional circumstances.

Medical Excuses: Students should not attend any class if they are ill, particularly if they have fever and/or gastrointestinal symptoms and/or respiratory symptoms such as a sneezing, runny nose, sore throat or coughing. Students experiencing any of these symptoms should contact immediately the Student Health Services (813-974-2331) on the Sarasota-Manatee and Tampa campus or the Wellness Center (727-873-4422) on the St. Petersburg campus for appropriate medical guidance and to obtain a verification of care letter. Students may turn to other health providers as well. **To be approved for missed or late quizzes and assignments, a verification of care letter must be presented by the student to the faculty member as soon as possible.**

Grades of "Incomplete": The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course.

An "I" grade may be awarded to a student only when a **small portion** of the student's work is incomplete and only when the student is **otherwise earning a passing grade**. The time limit for removing the "I" is to be set by the instructor of the course. For undergraduate students, this time limit may not exceed two academic semesters, whether or not the student is in residence, and/or graduation, whichever comes first. "I" grades not removed by the end of the time limit will be changed to "IF" or "IU," whichever is appropriate.

Campus Free Expression:

It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive.

In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner and not as an endorsement of what you should personally believe. Objective means that the idea(s) presented can be tested by critical peer review and rigorous debate, and that the idea(s) is supported by credible research.

Not all ideas can be supported by objective methods or criteria. Regardless, you may decide that certain ideas are worthy of your personal belief. In this course, however, you may be asked to engage with complex ideas and to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding an idea does not mean that you are required to believe it or agree with it.

End of Semester Student Evaluations:

All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

Netiquette Guidelines

1. Act professionally in the way you communicate. Treat your instructors and peers with respect, the same way you would do in a face-to-face environment. Respect other people's ideas and be constructive when explaining your views about points you may not agree with.
2. Be sensitive. Be respectful and sensitive when sharing your ideas and opinions. There will be people in your class with different linguistic backgrounds, political and religious beliefs or other general differences.
3. Proofread and check spelling. Doing this before sending an email or posting a thread on a discussion board will allow you to make sure your message is clear and thoughtful. Avoid the use of all capital letters, it can be perceived as if you are shouting, and it is more difficult to read.
4. Keep your communications focused and stay on topic. Complete your ideas before changing the subject. By keeping the message on focus you allow the readers to easily get your idea or answers they are looking for.
5. Be clear with your message. Avoid using humor or sarcasm. Since people can't see your expressions or hear your tone of voice, meaning can be misinterpreted.

XIV. Learning Support and Campus Offices

Academic Accommodations

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to receive academic accommodations. For additional information about academic accommodations and resources, you can visit the SAS website.

[SAS website for the Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee campuses.](#)

[SAS website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Academic Support Services

The USF Office of Student Success coordinates and promotes university-wide efforts to enhance undergraduate and graduate student success. For a comprehensive list of academic support services available to all USF students, please visit the [Office of Student Success website.](#)

Canvas Technical Support

If you have technical difficulties in Canvas, you can find access to the Canvas guides and video resources in the “Canvas Help” page on the homepage of your Canvas course. You can also contact the help desk by calling 813-974-1222 in Tampa or emailing [help@usf.edu.](mailto:help@usf.edu)

[IT website for the Tampa campus.](#)

[IT website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

[IT website for the Sarasota-Manatee campus.](#)

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center promotes the wellbeing of the campus community by providing counseling, consultation, prevention, and training that enhances student academic and personal success. Contact information is available online.

[Counseling Center website for the Tampa campus.](#)

[Counseling Center website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

[Counseling Center website for the Sarasota-Manatee campus.](#)