HIST 4900.01  Public History Topics: Britain, Ireland, and the British Empire  
MW 12:40 PM-2:10 PM  
St. Robert’s Hall 246

Course Schedule

NB:
- All reading assignments are required and are to be read by the date listed. All assignments are either in the Public History Reader, The British Imperial Century, or available on Brightspace (brightspace.lmu.edu)
- This schedule is subject to change; changes will be announced in class and on Brightspace

PART I. WHAT IS PUBLIC HISTORY AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION. WHAT IS PUBLIC HISTORY?
Mon, Aug 28  Introduction to Course and Public History; the recent Confederate Monuments controversy; some podcasts; the “Contested Representations” project

Wed, Aug 30  Recent Debates Over the Empire, 1: “Must Rhodes Fall?”
Preparation:
- Must Rhodes Fall? Full Oxford Student Union Debate (January 19, 2016; 98 minutes)  
  BE READY TO VOTE and EXPLAIN YOUR VOTE!
- Rhodes Must Fall website
- Oxford Student report on the debate
- Oriel College’s Official Statement on Rhodes Statue
- The Guardian report on Oriel College’s decision
- Cecil Rhodes, “Confession of Faith”

WEEK 2: HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PAST?
Mon, Sept 4: NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)

Weds, Sept 6: Studying and Practicing Public History
GUEST SPEAKER: Digital Scholarship Librarian Melanie Hubbard

Preparation:

- Hilda Kean, “Introduction,” in The Public History Reader (hereafter PHR), xiii-xxxii
- Consider some representations of the British Empire online:
  - BBC British History
  - British Library “Learning Texts in Context: Empire”
  - Find at least one additional history website and/or podcast to share with the class, related to the history of Britain, Ireland, and/or the British Empire. Be ready to explain what you like about your find, any criticisms you might have, what works, and what doesn’t work.
- We will begin the discussion today about your interest in the website themes, so please start thinking about which group you would like to join. For themes and full description and timeline of the project, see “Research Project and Website” (on Brightspace).

*Start Timothy Parsons, The British Imperial Century, 1815-1914: A World History.

WEDS, SEPT 6, 3PM, UNIVERSITY HALL SUITE 3500, VILLAGE 1

WEEK 3: HISTORY AND MEMORY
Mon, Sept 11: History and Memory
Preparation:

- Paul Martin, “The Past in the Present,” PHR 1-10
- Raphael Samuel, “Theatres of Memory,” PHR 11-29
* Continue Parsons, The British Imperial Century

Weds, Sept 13: GUEST SPEAKER: “#SaveMooreStreet: Heritage Activism and Historical Consciousness in Dublin 2016,” Emily Lucitt, doctoral candidate, Department of Anthropology, UCLA
UNIVERSITY HALL SUITE 3500, VILLAGE 1
Preparation:

- Watch “Awakening,” Episode 1 of “1916: The Irish Rebellion” (dir. Pat Collins, Ruán Magan, 2016; 53 minutes) (you may need to sign in to Hannon Library to access this via Kanopy, LMU’s documentary streaming service)
* Continue Parsons, The British Imperial Century

WEEK 4: PRESERVING THE PAST
Mon, Sept 18: Museums and Archives
Preparation:

- Hilda Kean, “Materials and Approaches to Making History,” PHR 147-157
- Sherry Turkle, “Evocative Objects: The Things that Matter,” PHR 157-172
* Continue Parsons, The British Imperial Century
TUES, SEPT 19, 5PM, UNIVERSITY HALL SUITE 3500, VILLAGE 1

Weds, Sept 20: LMU FIELD TRIP: Visit to the Archives!
Meet at the DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, Hannon Library, Level 3
Please note that A&SC does not allow ANY food or drinks (including gum and water!). There are lockers inside the room for your backpacks, but all comestibles will be removed and left outside the room. Please make sure your hands are clean (really!) because this will be a hands-on learning experience.

Preparation:
• Daniel Cohen, “The Future of Preserving the Past,” PHR 214-223
• Sandra Prosalandis et al, “Recalling Community in Cape Town: Creating and Curating the District Six Museum,” PHR 283-296
* Continue Parsons, The British Imperial Century

FRI, SEPT 22: RESEARCH ABSTRACT DUE

WEEK 5: PRESENTING THE PAST
Mon, Sept 25: Presenting and Re-presenting the British Empire
Preparation:
• Finish Parsons, The British Imperial Century
• Philippa Levine, “Decolonisation,” from The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset (Routledge, 2013), 180-205; this book is an excellent general resource, and you may wish to consult her very comprehensive “Chronology,” 235-278
• “British Empire: Heroes and Villains’ review - a poignant reminder of how history gets written,” The Guardian (2 February 2017)
• “The Art of Empire: Can Britain face its colonial past?” (BBC Culture, 2 February 2016, 4 minutes)

IN CLASS: “The British Empire: Heroes and Villains, A Timewatch Guide” (David Olusoga, BBC, 2017; 59 minutes)

Weds, Sept 27: The Uses and Abuses of History
Preparation:
• Graeme Davison, “The Use and Abuse of Australian History, PHR 68-82
• Jorma Kalela, “Making History: The Historian and the Uses of the Past,” PHR 104-128

WEEK 6: STORIES
Mon, Oct 2: Oral History
Preparation:
- Cahal McLaughlin, “‘Under the Same Roof’: Separate Stories from Long Kesh/Maze,” PHR 275-282

Weds, Oct 4: History and Fiction
Preparation:
- Hilary Mantel, “Why I became a historical novelist,” The Guardian (June 3, 2017) (you can also listen to this lecture, here titled “The Day is for the Living,” 42 minutes)

IN CLASS: excerpts from Atonement (dir. Wright, 2007)

PART II: PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT

WEEK 7: IMPERIAL NOSTALGIA
Mon, Oct 9: Discussion/Research proposal preparation/Web design
GUEST SPEAKER: Digital Scholarship Librarian Melanie Hubbard
Preparation: Jonathan Swift, “A Modest Proposal,” and podcast TBD; be ready to submit questions today for Scott Pinkmountain meeting on October 18

Weds, Oct 11: Recent Debates, 2: What Have the Britons Ever Done for Us?
Preparation:
- Interview with Shashi Tharoor, Sky News, Mar 17, 2017 (10 minutes)
- Monty Python, “What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us?” (excerpt from “The Life of Brian,” dir. Terry Jones, 1979, 2 minutes)

In class: Episode 5, “Maxim Force” of Niall Ferguson, “Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World” (Channel 4, 2003; 49 minutes), and discussion
WEEK 8: IMPERIAL NOSTALGIA, CONTINUED: BREXIT, STAGE RIGHT

Mon, Oct 16: “Empire 2.0”: Brexit as Historical Argument (referendum on whether to leave the European Union, held on June 23, 2017)

Preparation:
• History of the Commonwealth of Nations
• Vote Leave campaign site
• Remain campaign site
• articles on Brexit:
  o The Financial Times (April 2016)
  o The New Statesman (May 2016)
  o The Sun (June 2016)
  o The Express (March 2017)
  o The Guardian (March 2017)

Feel free to search out more articles!

Weds, Oct 18: GUEST SPEAKER: Skype with musician and podcaster Scott Pinkmountain; website project discussion

FRI, OCT 20: RESEARCH PAPER DUE

WEEK 9: THEME 1: IRELAND AND THE EMPIRE: THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Mon, Oct 23: 1916 IN 2016

Preparation:
• James Coohill, “War in Europe and War in Ireland, 1914-1922,” from Ireland: A Short History (Oneworld Publications, 2014), 120-130
• Articles on Easter Rising commemorations:
  o “‘Overwhelming’ response to Easter Rising commemorations,” The Irish Times 8 October 2015
  o “‘Over 1 million’ attend Dublin Easter Rising commemorations,” The Irish Times 31 March 2016
  o OTHER ARTICLES TBD

OPTIONAL READING ON IRISH HISTORY:
• Philippa Levine, Chapter 1, “Uniting the Kingdom,” from The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset (Routledge, 2013), 1-14

Weds, Oct 25: STUDENT PRESENTATION GROUP 1

WEEK 10: THEME 2: THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE WORLD WARS

Mon, Oct 30: “Our Finest Hour”

Preparation:
IN CLASS:
- “Propaganda Minister – Clips” at National Archives
- “Listen to Britain” (dir. Humphrey Jennings, 1942; 20 minutes)

Weds, Nov 1: STUDENT PRESENTATION GROUP 2

WEEK 11: THEME 4: DECOLONIZATION AND IMPERIAL AMNESIA

Mon, Nov 6: History, Memory, and Justice
Preparation:
- “Mau Mau” (Radiolab, 2015, 45 minutes)

Weds, Nov 8: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS GROUPS 3 AND 4


Mon, Nov 13: Colonial Legacies: Borders and Identity
Preparation:
- Farhat Manzoor, Greta Jones and James McKenna, “‘How Could These People Do This Sort of Stuff and Then We Have to Look after Them?’ Ethical Dilemmas of Nursing in the Northern Ireland Conflict,” *Oral History*, Vol. 35, No. 2, Conflicts and Continuity (Autumn, 2007): 36-44

NB: Students in GROUP 5 may wish to meet with me Monday after class or Tuesday in office hours (hours TBA) to get feedback on their presentations in advance of the website draft due on Friday.

Weds, Nov 15: NO CLASS (PROFESSOR @ CONFERENCE)

FRI, NOV 17: DRAFT WEBPAGES DUE

Week 13: THEME 4, DECOLONIZATION, CONTINUED
Mon, Nov 20: STUDENT PRESENTATION GROUP 5
Weds, Nov 22: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

WEEK 14:
Mon, Nov 27: Project work/individual and group meetings
Weds, Nov 29: Project work/individual and group meetings

WEEK 15: RESEARCH, PROJECT WORK, DISCUSSION
Mon, Dec 4: Project work/individual and group meetings
Weds, Dec 6: Final discussion

FINALS WEEK: Weds, Dec 13, 11am-1pm: WEBSITE LAUNCH and PRESENTATIONS