



Sir J. G. Scott (1851-1935), the Scottish “empire-builder,” with members of a college football team in Rangoon, Burma, ca. 1880

History 506:363

Imperialism

Professor Chie Ikeya

Fall 2013

Mondays & Wednesdays,
4:30pm – 5:50pm

This course examines comparatively the nature and impact of European, American, and Japanese colonial empires in the 18th to 20th centuries with particular emphasis on how race and gender have influenced the policies, practices, and legacies of these overlapping and competing imperial powers. Recent scholarship on imperialism has shown that race and gender were integral elements of almost every aspect of the political, social, and economic structures and cultures of modern colonial empires. European, American, and Japanese imperial regimes all deployed racial and gender hierarchies in creating and sustaining the kind of social order that yielded the labor and resources on which they depended. Across different colonies in Asia and Africa, race and gender were mobilized as interlocking categories of difference that together served to rationalize, naturalize, and legitimize colonial oppression and exploitation.

These scholarly insights will guide our exploration of both shared and divergent historical experiences of modern colonial empires. Focusing on select case studies from colonial Asia and Africa, we will seek to understand the various and specific ways that race and gender shaped the goals, strategies, and achievements of modern imperial powers and the marks they left on their respective colonies. We will consider a wide range of topics—*religious conversion, labor migration, vice regulation, disease and health, sporting culture, fashion, marriage and miscegenation, prostitution and sex tourism, and nationalism*—that illuminate the intersecting dynamics between imperialism, race, and gender.

This is an upper-division course that combines lecture with seminar-style discussion. It is based upon intensive reading, interpretation, and discussion of a variety of historical sources: primary and secondary (i.e., sources created by historical actors during the period we are studying vs. those created by historians), visual and literary, and fictional and non-fictional. Students are expected to participate actively and substantively in all class discussions.

This course is an approved elective course for the minor in Comparative and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. For further information, see:

<http://amerstudies.rutgers.edu/comparative-and-critical-race-and-ethnic-studies-minor-ccres>