

PCC 128. France and the struggles over its Empire 1870-2010

Prof. Carole Reynaud-Paligot

Lecture

Thursday 12:30pm - 3:30pm

This course approaches the processes of colonization and decolonization both within the French Empire and in the context of current discussions. It will examine the cultural and social context which facilitated colonial domination (the development of the Social Darwinism and the racial thinking), the construction of colonial myths (the colonial epic, the “mise en valeur”) but also the political and cultural resistances to colonial domination. To treat the diverse aspects of this colonial culture, various documents will be analyzed: propaganda texts, comic strips, posters, photos, movies, literary works.

[History, European Studies, Ethnic Studies] **5.0 credits**

COURSE MATERIALS

* Aldrich Robert, *Greater France : A History of Overseas Expansion*, London, Macmillan Press, 1996

* Articles and book chapters reproduced in the Course Reader.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to do all reading before each weekly session and to attend all guest lectures and sites visits scheduled during the semester. Students are required to complete the weekly readings comprised of secondary sources found in the assigned books, the Course Reader, and directly on the web (with links from the syllabus).

- Weekly Readings and Class Participation (25% of the final grade)
- Writing Assignment 1 (25%)
- Writing Assignment 2 (25%).
- Final exam (25%).

Week 1 . Introduction : aim of the course, formal requirements

The Birth of The French Colonial Empire

Film : *Brazza ou l'épopée du Congo* de Jean Poirier (1939), 94 mn.

Week 2 . Social Darwinism, Racism and Human Zoo

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France : A History of Overseas Expansion*, London, Macmillan Press, 1996 : chapter 1 et 2.

Readings : Pascal Blanchard, Sandrine Lemaire and Nicolas Bancel (August 2000). "[Human zoos - Racist theme parks for Europe's colonialists](http://mondediplo.com/2000/08/07humanzoo)". *Le Monde Diplomatique*. <http://mondediplo.com/2000/08/07humanzoo>.

Week 3 . The “Mise en valeur” (1)

a) Exam : questions on the courses of weeks 1 and 2

b) The “Mise en valeur”(1) :

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 3 p. 89-111 and 4.

Postcards “La force noire”, “la force jaune”, posters : « les bienfaits de la colonisation », « une école indigène », « la mise en valeur forestière »

Week 4 . The “Mise en valeur” (2) and Colonial culture

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapters 5 and 7.

Photography : « exposition coloniale de 1931 »

Week 5 . Musée d’Orsay “Orientalism”

Visit permanent collections and the temporary exhibition "Louis Léon Jérôme"(Orientalist Painter)

Readings : Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, chapter, p. 31-73.

Week 6 Resistance to French Rule, Anticolonialism, Nationalism, “Avant-garde”, “Negritude », ethnology

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 3, p. 111-121 and chap. 6.

André Gide, *Travels in the Congo* (1927), Césaire Aimé, *Discourse on Colonialism*, Monthly Review Press 2000.

Comic Strip in *L’Humanité in La Question coloniale dans l’Humanité*, Paris, La Dispute, 2005.

Week 7 . Midterm

Exam

Film : “Aimé Césaire. Une parole pour le XXIe siècle”, E. Palcy, 1994.

Week 8 : no course 11 novembre

Week 9 .

Wednesday 19/11 Visit : « les collections africaines du Musée du quai Branly »

Thursday : Second War World and Reconstruction at overseas 1945-1958

Letters “Tirailleurs Sénégalais” (en anglais) in Myron Echenberg *Colonial Conscripts. The Tirailleurs Sénégalais in French West Africa 1857-1960*, London, James Currey.

Comic Strip : the first episode of « Mamadou s’en va-t’n guerre » (1939)

Week 10 . Decolonization

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 8, p. 266-292.

Week 11 . Decolonization

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 8, p. 292-306.

Film : *La Question*, Laurent HEYNEMANN, anglais, 1977, 112 min.

Week 12 . Post-Colonial Era

Readings: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, Epilogue : After the Empire

Posters : « Algérie Française toujours », « Au Congo : la chasse au blancs », « Mme Lumumba redevient africaine et sauvage », *Paris-Match*, juillet 1960 in Eric Deroo, *L'Illusion coloniale*, Paris, Tallandier, 2005.

Film : *Bamako* Abderrahmane SISSAKO. Français/bambara, st anglais, 2006, 118 min.

Week 13 . Final Exam