Rudyard Kipling’s India: Literature, History, and Empire
(TR, 8.40-9.55 GS164)

This writing-intensive course uses the novels, stories, and poems of Rudyard Kipling to explore the history of the British Empire in India in the late 19th century. We will ask what Kipling's fictional works can tell us about the British project of governing India, and also consider the broader question of the value of fiction as a historical source. Apart from a broad coverage of Kipling’s writings on India, students will also study recent works by historians and literary critics. The writing exercises are designed to allow students to develop their skills in close reading, textual analysis and historical argument, culminating in a final essay on Kipling’s greatest novel, Kim.

Learning Objectives

To become a better and more confident academic writer as demonstrated in:
- close analysis of texts
- use of primary and secondary sources
- sustaining a thesis with evidence
- revising your work and the work of others

To better understand the relationship between historical and literary forms of analysis.

To become better informed about the history of modern imperialism, and modern South Asian history.

Requirements:
The first requirement of the course is regular attendance at class and active participation in class discussions. It will be important to complete all required readings before class, making written notes on the readings, and thinking in advance of questions and points for discussion. 20% of the final grade will be awarded on the basis of class participation. Please note: if possible, you should give prior notice if you will be absent from class. More than one unexplained absence will result in grade penalties.

The second requirement is the completion of all writing assignments. The timely completion of all writing assignments is essential to the smooth functioning of the course, and late work will be subject to grade penalties. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL STUDENT WRITING FOR THE COURSE MAY BE READ BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CLASS.

Readings: The following required texts are available for purchase from the Campus Store.

Rudyard Kipling, The Man Who Would be King. Selected Stories, ed. Jan Montefiore (Penguin Classics, 2011) (Note: this book is also available as an eresource through Literature Online via the Cornell library website)


The following texts are on reserve in Uris Library, and should be consulted as required for background information:

Thomas Pinney, ed., Kipling’s India: Uncollected Sketches (a collection of Kipling’s Indian journalism with a useful biographical introduction)

C. A. Bayly, ed. The Raj. India and the British (a comprehensive catalogue to a London exhibition about British India, with excellent photographs and short essays on many different aspects of colonial Indian history. Highly recommended as a way to gain useful background knowledge for the course)

Peter Hopkirk, The Quest for Kim (interesting study the historical characters behind the fictional story of Kim)

Howard J. Booth, The Cambridge Companion to Rudyard Kipling (up to date critical essays on different facets of Kipling’s works)

The following electronic resources (available through the library catalogue) and websites will be useful reference tools for the class:

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (electronic resource through library website)

http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/bookmart_fra.htm (website with extensive commentaries on Kipling’s works)

Schedule of Readings and Discussions:

Items marked with an asterisk will be available on the Blackboard Website.

Thursday 26 Jan: Introductions and welcome

Week 1
Tuesday 31 Jan: Reading Kipling in the Twenty First Century
Thursday 2 Feb: Kipling’s Imperial Childhood

*Week 2*
Tuesday 7 Feb: General discussion of writing
1st writing assignment due in class: 2-3 page paper (double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) on ‘My writing life’

Thursday 9 Feb: Discussion of writing strategies
Strunk and White, *Elements of Style* (entire)

*Week 3*
Tuesday 14 Feb: Discussion of ‘The Man Who Would be King’
Kipling, *Man Who Would be King*, ‘The Man Who Would Be King’

Thursday 16 Feb: What is historical context?
2nd writing assignment due in class (10% of final grade): 2-3 page paper titled: “An interpretation of Kipling’s ‘The Man Who Would be King’”

**FEBRUARY BREAK**

*Week 4*
Thursday 23 Feb: The Victorian Raj

*Week 5*
Tuesday 28 Feb: Tensions of Empire

Thursday 2 March: The Northwest frontier and Kafiristan
(available on the Cornell Library website, and as ereserve through Blackboard)

*Week 6*
Tuesday 7 March: Gender, sex and empire

Thursday 9 March: in class discussion of drafts
3rd writing assignment due in class: draft of 5 page essay titled: ‘An Interpretation of Kipling’s, “The Man Who Would Be King”’
Week 7
Tuesday 14 March: Small group discussions of short stories

*Kipling, Man Who Would be King, students will read one from a selection of stories, including: ‘The Strange Ride of Morrowbie Jukes’, ‘Beyond the Pale’, ‘The City of Dreadful Night’ and ‘The Head of the District’

4th writing assignment due in class (25% of final grade): revised version of 5 page essay titled: ‘A New Interpretation of “The Man Who Would be King”’

Thursday 16 March: Presentations by small groups on short stories

Week 8
Tuesday 21 March: Small group discussions of poems

Kipling, 100 Poems, selections

Thursday 23 March: Presentation by small groups on poems of Kipling

5th writing assignment due in class (10% final grade): 3-4 page essay analyzing a poem by Rudyard Kipling

Week 9
Tuesday 28 March: Introducing Kim


Thursday 30 March: Individual meetings with instructor

SPRING BREAK

Week 10
Tuesday 11 April: Reading Kim

Kipling, Kim, ch 1-6, pp. 1-98

Thursday 13 April: Reading Kim

Kipling, Kim, ch. 7-11, pp. 98-173

Week 11
Tuesday 18 April: Reading Kim

Kipling, Kim, ch. 12-15 pp. 173-240

Thursday 20 April: Discussion of paper proposals

6th writing assignment due in class: 1 page proposal for a final paper on Kim, including an analytical question, and a proposed answer to the question (a thesis)

Week 12
Tuesday 25 April: Individual meetings with instructor

Thursday 27 April: Discussion of planning a longer essay

7th writing assignment due in class: introduction and 2-3 page outline for final paper
Week 13
Tuesday 2 May: in class movie – *Kim* (1950)
Thursday 4 May: in class movie – *Kim* (1950)

9th writing assignment due in class: first draft of 8-10 page paper on *Kim*

Week 14
Tuesday 9 May: Conclusions

10th writing assignment (35% of final grade) due on Wednesday 10 May by
5.00pm: final draft of 8-10 page paper on *Kim*

Guideline for submission of written work:

- Use standard font, in 12 point
- Double-space, using 1 inch margins
- Number your pages
- On 1st page indicate, name, date and title
- Proofread and spell-check

Statement on University Policies and Regulations:
This instructor respects and upholds University Policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired student; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

All the work you submit in this course must have been written for this course and not another, and must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.