Course description:

This course explores British colonialism through the prism of lawyers and judges, both European and non-European. The legal profession did much of the work of running the British Empire—and of dismantling it. Lawyers, particularly from colonized communities, also served as cultural “translators” or middlemen in interpreting colonized cultures for the colonial state. Among other themes, the course explores racialized and gendered lawyering; material culture and everyday life; mobile and diasporic lawyering; and debates over collaboration and professional monopolization. The use of primary source material will be emphasized.

Course Grades & Requirements:

Your final grade will be based upon:

- 10%: Map quiz on T, Feb.5
- 30%: Primary source report (8-10 pages; due Th, April 10), including research proposal & annotated bibliography (1-2 pages; due T, Feb. 26). Written assignments should be double-spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. They should be submitted via digital dropbox on our Learn@UW course page.
- 40%: Final exam (F, May 16, 7.25pm+)
- 20%: Class participation (including attendance)

Course Materials:

All readings for the course are included in the course reader, available at the Copy Center (not the Book Mart) on the 2nd floor of the UW Law School (on Bascom Mall).
Course Reading Schedule:

- **T, Jan. 22:** Introduction

**PART 1: BIG DEBATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION & BRITISH COLONIALISM**

- **Th, Jan. 24:** Sociology of the Professions

- **T, Jan. 29:** Lawyers & Liberal Regimes

- **Th, Jan. 31:** Colonial Forms of Knowledge
  - Bernard Cohn, “The Census, Social Structure and Objectification in South Asia” in Cohn, *An Anthropologist among the Historians and Other Essays* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987), 224-54

- **T, Feb. 5:** Colonialism & Collaboration

  *Map Quiz (10%)*

**PART 2: LAWYERS & JUDGES IN BRITAIN…**

- **Th, Feb. 7:** Overview of Lawyering in Britain

- **T, Feb. 12:** Imperial Legal London:
  - Privy Council Appeals & Colonial Law Students


**PART 3: …AND IN THE EMPIRE**

- **Th, Feb. 14:** Gendered Lawyering: Women in the Colonial Legal Professions
  
  *Guest lecture by Prof. Mary Jane Mossman (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, Canada)*
  

- **T, Feb. 19:** Overview of Lawyers & Judges in the Empire
  
  

- **Th, Feb. 21:** Lawyers & Legal Education
  
  

- **T, Feb. 26:** Distrusting Colonial Lawyers
  

  *Research proposal and annotated bibliography for primary source report due today* (1-2 pages; by digital dropbox via Learn@UW course page)

- **Th, Feb. 28:** Lawyers & Professionalization
  

- **T, March 4:** Judges & Magistrates
  
  *Film: “Lost World of the Raj: Pomp & Power” (BBC documentary, 2007)*
  
(2 pages)

- Norval Morris, “The Brothel Boy: A Fragment of a Manuscript” (by Eric Blair AKA George Orwell), Occasional Papers from the Law School, University of Chicago, No. 18 (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1982), 1-17

- **Th, March 6:** Court Clerks, Translators & Other Junior Officials

- **T, March 11:** Colonial Lawyering & the History of the Book
  - M. P. Jain, Outlines of Indian Legal History (Bombay: Tripathi, 1966), 652-4

- **Th, March 13:** Material Culture
  - Rob McQueen, “Of Wigs and Gowns: A Short History of Legal and Judicial Dress in Australia” in Rob McQueen and W. Wesley Pue, eds, Misplaced Traditions: British Lawyers, Colonial Peoples (Annandale, Australia: Federation Press, 1999), 31-58

- **Sat., March 15 – Sunday, March 23:** Spring Break

- **T, March 25:** Everyday life
  - Eanna Hickey, Irish Law and Lawyers in Modern Folk Tradition (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1999), 58-90

- **Th, March 27:** Distinctive Legal Cultures
  - Constance Backhouse, “Gender and Race in the Construction of ‘Legal Professionalism’: Historical Perspectives” (speech available through Law Society of Upper Canada website: http://www.lsuc.on.ca/media/constance_backhouse_gender_and_race.pdf)
• **T, April 1:** Legal Culture Clashes

*Film Clip: A Passage to India (1984)*

- Norman Macleod, “A Box of Mangoes” (excerpts from unpublished manuscripts at the Highland Council Archives, Scotland), 1-2
- Frank Beaman, “Legal Reminiscences from Colonial Bombay” [excerpts from column in *Bombay Law Review* (1925)], 1-4

• **Th, April 3:** Mobile Lawyering


• **T, April 8:** Diasporic Lawyering


• **Th, April 10:** *Primary Source Report (30%) due by the end of the day*  
(by digital dropbox on Learn@UW course page).  
*No class today.*

• **T, April 15:** Colonial Lawyering & Race

*Film clip: Gandhi (1982)*


• **Th, April 17:** Mixed Race Lawyers & Judges

*Film clip: “Lost World of the Raj: Home from Home”  
(BBC documentary, 2007)*

• T, April 22: Family Life and Colonial Lawyers & Judges

  *Film: “Lost World of the Raj: Sex & Sensibility” (BBC documentary, 2007)*

  o Elizabeth Buettner, *Empire Families: Britons and Late Imperial India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 110-45

• Th, April 24: Gendered lawyering: Masculinity & the Colonial Legal Professions


• T, April 29: Lawyers & Judges as Legal Ethnographers


• Th, May 1: Religion & Colonial Lawyering


• T, May 6: Resisting Colonialism: Independence Struggles

  *Film clips: Gandhi (1982) & The Fall of the British Empire (Time-Life documentary, 2001)*


• Th, May 8: Post-colonial Reverberations


• T, May 13, 7pm+: Final Review: Big Themes (optional session; location TBA)

• F, May 16, 7.25pm+: *Final Exam (40%)* (location TBA)