

**Asia and the Victorians (EN277)**  
**Second Assessed Essay Questions**  
**Due on 29 April 2014 (Tuesday, Week 2, Term 3)**

(2,500 words)\*

Answer **ONE** of the following questions. Feel free to formulate your own question in consultation with Dr Forman.

1. Write an essay on how one or more of the writers from Term 2 compare British imperialism with Dutch and/or French and/or Spanish imperialism.
2. Consider the role of the sea in one or more of the fictions read during Term 2.
3. Discuss the development of what Benedict Anderson calls a “new, restless double-consciousness” (229) in José Rizal’s *Noli Me Tangere*. How does the “spectre of comparisons” function here?
4. How do one or more authors from Term 2 manipulate tropes of disgust—and to what ends?
5. Explore the role of “running amuck” or of the *kris* in one or more of the texts from Term 2.
6. Examine the representation of mestizo/”half-caste” characters in one or more of the texts from Term 2.
7. Explore the use of “pidgin English” in one or more of the texts from Term 2.
8. Explore the depiction of anti-Western sentiment/xenophobia in one or more of the texts from Term 2. How do writers use this idea of xenophobia to demonize Asian groups as “barbaric,” “uncivilized,” etc. (or, in Ng’s novel, to give the Chinese side of the Boxer Rebellion)?
9. Analyze the representation of Asian cities and/or the built environment in one or more texts from Term 2?
10. Discuss how execution and/or torture appear in one or more of the narratives read in Term 2.
11. How does the imperial archive figure in one or more of the works from Term 2?

\* 5,000 words for students doing the 100% assessed option

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Your essay must have a strong central argument/thesis statement, which should appear towards the start. I will be expecting you to do close reading during the essay, commenting on issues such as narrative voice, style, etc. and the way in which these elements contribute to the title you have chosen.

The essay should use parenthetical citations for quotations and have a bibliography, which preferably conforms to the MLA style. Information on the MLA style can be found at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org), or you can consult the MLA Handbook in the library. The Online Writing Lab at Purdue, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/>, offers good guidance on how to formulate a thesis statement. I also recommend *The Craft of Research*, edited by Wayne Booth et al.