

History 2124: Critical Issues in World History: Empires in World History

Fall 2005; Wednesday, 5:00-7:50

Group III for History Majors; Area 7 of the Core Curriculum

Enrollment restricted to first year and sophomore students.

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Monday 1-2 pm, Wednesday 11-12; by appointment

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This course explores the question of why certain states have sought to conquer, rule, and govern other peoples and societies. Focusing on the interactions between indigenous peoples and foreign conquerors, this course devotes particular attention to the mutual influence exerted between and among colonizer and colonized. The period of time is from the European explorations of the fifteenth century through the contemporary world of global neo-imperialism. Readings include recent scholarship on the topic of imperial and colonial history, as well primary source materials such as travel accounts, memoirs, cultural products, and fiction. Requirements include completion of substantial reading assignments, active participation in discussions, leading class presentations, writing analytical papers in a structured peer-review setting, and a take-home final examination.

Assigned books:

Robert Tignor, et al, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* WW Norton, 0393977463

Dominic Lieven, *Empire. The Russian Empire and Its Rivals* Yale UP, 0300097263

Alice Conklin and Ian Christopher Fletcher, *European Imperialism 1830-1930* Heath, 0395903858

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti. Military Occupation and U.S. Imperialism* UNC Press, 0807849383

Niall Ferguson, *Colossus. The Rise and Fall of the American Empire* Penguin, 1594200130

Thomas Benjamin, et al, *The Atlantic World in the Age of Empire* Houghton Mifflin, 0618061355

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (any edition)

In addition to these required books, the other readings on the syllabus are available in full-text versions through the Virginia Tech library. Off-campus users should register from the library homepage and use the bibliographic information listed for each week.

Requirements:	Date:	Percent of Grade
4 Papers (5 pages each)	Due September 7, September 21, October 5, and October 19	60%
Final essay (10 pages)	Due November 30	20%
Participation and peer reviews		20%

Paper assignments will be provided by the instructor, and will be based on the readings and discussion in class. **Papers must be completed by the beginning of class on the day that they are assigned.** Late paper will receive a grade penalty, in addition to the lost opportunity for peer review. Each student should bring three copies of the paper for reading and discussion by classmates. If this is not possible, electronic copies of papers may be sent to the instructor to make additional copies, but this paper must be received by the morning of the day the paper is due. Following peer reviews, students will normally have an opportunity to revise their papers before submitting them for grades. The final essay will be an exploration of the question: what is the historical significance of empire? The final essay should draw upon, synthesize, revise elements from the other four papers. The schedule for completing final essay is: a first draft due November 2, revised version by November 16, and final version by November 30. If deemed practical, the final essays will be collected and distributed in printed and electronic formats.

	Date	Readings	Assignment
1	August 24	Definitions of Empire (handout)	
2	August 31	<i>Daedalus</i> (April 2005) on Empire: Articles by Ferguson, Pomeranz, Pagden, Snyder, Blackburn, Greene, Wesseling, and Iriye (online) <i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 1	
3	September 7	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 2 Halperin, "The Ideology of Silence," <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 26/3 (1984) pp. 442-466 (online) Hodgson, "Role of Islam in World History," <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> 1/2 (1970) pp. 99-123 (online)	Paper due
4	September 14	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 3 <i>Atlantic World</i> pp. 1-165	
5	September 21	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 4 <i>Atlantic World</i> pp. 167-245	Paper due
6	September 28	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 5 Mardin, "Power, Civil Society, and Culture in Ottoman Empire," <i>CSSH</i> 11/3 (1969) pp. 248-251 (online) Gawrych, "Tolerant Dimensions of Cultural Pluralism in the Ottoman Empire," <i>IJMES</i> 15/4 (1983) pp. 519-536 (online)	
7	October 5	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 6 Lieven, <i>Empire</i> pp. 1-198	Paper due
8	October 12	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 7 Lieven, <i>Empire</i> pp. 201-422	
9	October 19	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 8 <i>European Imperialism</i>	Paper due
10	October 26	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 9 Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	
11	November 2	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 10 Renda, <i>Taking Haiti</i>	
12	November 9	<i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 11	Draft of essay due
13	November 16	Ferguson, <i>Colossus</i> pp. 1-166	
14	November 30	Ferguson, <i>Colossus</i> pp. 169-302 <i>Worlds Together</i> , Ch. 12	Final essay due
15	December 7	Readings t.b.a.	