

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: History

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Cultures of Imperial Power

Course Code: HST 5100

Course Leader: Prof Dominic Alessio

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines the causes and consequences of empires throughout history from a broad range of comparative perspectives, including the economic, political, social and (by way of postcolonial theory) the cultural. It investigates why empires are historically significant, how and why they rise and fall, whether they are good or bad, how they are defined, and how they can be resisted. The subject matter ranges from the earliest land superpowers of the ancient world to the 'New Rome' - the United States. It finishes by suggesting other potential contenders for imperial hegemony, including Multi National Corporations. It examines the question as to whether or not all history is essentially a history of empire, with the legacies of this imperial past (if not some of the empires themselves) still alive and well despite decolonisation. Where possible the course will make use of museums and collections within London.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

To engage with written and visual primary sources, as well as other forms of visual and oral culture (painting/film/television/music/architecture) over a wide geographical and chronological range, in order to foster comparative and interdisciplinary critical approaches to the study of empire that move beyond the modern and the western only. To provide a basic understanding of, and introduction to, some of the theoretical

approaches to studying empires and imperialism, such as Marxism, negritude, nationalism, postcolonialism, Orientalism, Subaltern Studies and Diaspora Studies. To enhance historical and transferable skills (written and oral) through oral presentations, exams, research papers, and where possible class visits/guest lectures and other media, as well as critical analysis of particular topics and problems.

Programme Outcomes :

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5A(i); 5A(iii); 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5B(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of historical processes as they pertain to the formation of empires and expressions of imperial culture
- Demonstrates a critical engagement with key scholars in postcolonial theory, and a detailed understanding of their relevance to the study of empire
- Demonstrates the accumulation of a detailed body of historical knowledge regarding empires in different epochs and different parts of the world, as well as an appreciation of the significance of empires to world history
- Demonstrates a historiographical engagement with approaches to imperial studies
- Demonstrates a detailed historical understanding of the continuities and changes in, and causes and consequences of, empires and imperialism
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- The significance of empires
- Are empires good or bad?
- Defining empire, imperialism & colonialism
- Why & how empires are formed: security, economics and ideology
- Responding to empire: resistance and collaboration
- Theorizing empire: postcolonialism and its problems
- Types of empires: ancient, Islamic, European & US
- Post-imperialism? – decolonisation, globalisation

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

