

European Imperialism

History 740
Thurs 7:00-9:45

Spring 2007
Sarah Curtis

How did Europe come to dominate the world? What were the consequences? This seminar examines the theory and practice of European imperialism in the modern period. The historical literature on this phenomenon has exploded in the last two decades, as European history has been reconceived as including both metropole and colonies. For the first ten weeks of the course, we will read a selection of recent books that illuminate various aspects of the imperialism process from the perspective of Europeans (especially the French and the British), including works in cultural studies, gender, theory, and politics. For the last five weeks of the course, students will write historiographical or research papers that examine the impact of European imperialism on one particular part of the world. They will also be responsible for recommending a common reading for the class and leading a discussion on that colonial experience. This class can be used for credit in either Europe after 1500 or Modern World history fields.

Prerequisites:

This is a graduate history seminar. Graduate standing in history or permission of the instructor is required for enrollment. In most cases, it is expected that students will have already taken History 700.

Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore and are on reserve at the library.

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804*

Frederick Cooper and Ann Stoler, eds., *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*

David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire*

Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women, and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915*

Julia Clancy-Smith and Frances Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire: Race, Gender, and Family Life in French and Dutch Colonialism*

Timothy Mitchell, *Colonising Egypt*

Alice Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895-1930*

The following book will be available directly from the publisher (via the instructor) at a special discounted rate (do not buy elsewhere):

J. P. Daughton, *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914*

Electronic reserves and article databases:

Other readings will be available via one of SFSU's article databases or on electronic reserve (ER) as indicated on the syllabus. Article databases can be found at <http://www.library.sfsu.edu/eresource/choosedb.html> (looking the article up first in Historical Abstracts is usually the fastest path to a full-text copy). Electronic reserve readings can be accessed at the following address: <http://eres.sfsu.edu/> (or by the link on the library web page or my web page). The password for this course is sunneversets.

Course requirements:

Attendance at seminar sessions is required. If you have to miss a class, please inform me *in advance* of the meeting by telephone or e-mail. More than one absence will affect your grade. You should come to class prepared to discuss that week's reading, and I expect every student to participate in every class.

For the first ten weeks of the course, we will pursue a course of common readings as shown on the schedule. These books have been chosen not for comprehensive coverage of the events of European imperialism, but as examples of *approaches* to understanding European imperialism in the period between the Enlightenment and the First World War. They emphasize the ideas and actions of Europeans as they sought to dominate other parts of the world, and the impact of European imperialism on the metropole.

For each of these class periods, half the class will propose a question based on that week's reading, and will prepare a response to the question, **no more than 3 pp. typed and double spaced with normal margins and 12-pt. font**. Over the course of the semester, each student will write five such questions and responses. The questions should be ones that will stimulate discussion. Please post the question (not the response) on the course website on Blackboard (<http://online.sfsu.edu/>) by noon on Thursday. (Please note: Blackboard and the class rosters available to me only recognize SFSU e-mail addresses; if you use a different one, use the forwarding feature at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~doit/account.htm#forward>).

For the remaining five weeks of the course, we will examine the impact of European imperialism on various parts of the world. The exact readings are not yet given on the syllabus because they will be chosen by the students themselves. Each student will be responsible for choosing a part of the world controlled by Europeans in this period (from Australia to Zanzibar) and researching the relevant historiography. S/he will choose a short reading (an article or book chapter) for the class to read as a whole and lead a discussion on that reading on the assigned date. We will have three such discussions per class period. More details about the logistics of this assignment will be given in class.

The final project for the course will consist of a 15-20 page review essay based on a selection of books and articles (approximately 5-8) on the place you have chosen to examine. Places must be chosen by March 1, a preliminary bibliography is due on March 22, and the final paper will be due on May 24.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows: participation 30%, short responses 25% (5% each), preliminary bibliography 2.5%, class presentation 7.5%, final review essay 35%.

Office hours and contact information:

Tuesday 10:30-12, Thursday, 3:30-5:00, and by appointment

office location: Science 267

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Schedule:**January 25****Introduction****February 1****Travelers and Philosophers**

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes*, parts I and II

William Cohen, "The Philosophes and Africa," in *The French Encounter with Africans* (ER)

February 8**Discourses**

Edward Said, *Orientalism*, chaps. 1-2 and afterward, skim chap. 3

Cooper and Stoler, eds., *Tensions of Empire*: essay by Mehta

February 15**Citizenship**

Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens*

February 22**Class**

David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism*

Cooper and Stoler, eds., *Tensions of Empire*: essay by Thorne

P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, "Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Expansion Overseas I: The Old Colonial System, 1688-1850" *Economic History Review* 2nd series, 39 (1986): 501-525

P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, "Gentlemanly Capitalism and British Expansion Overseas II: New Imperialism, 1850-1945," *Economic History Review* 2nd series, 40 (1987): 1-26

March 1

Gender, part I

Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History*

Clancy-Smith and Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire*: essays by Pedersen and Conklin

You should have chosen the place for your review essay by this date.

March 8

Gender, part II

Clancy-Smith and Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire*: introduction, essays by Pattynama, Edwards, Locher-Scholten, Clancy-Smith, Fletcher, Gouda, Rutherford

Cooper and Stoler, eds., *Tensions of Empire*: essays by Stoler, Wildenthal

March 15

Culture

Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*

Edward Said, “Narrative and Social Space” and “The Empire at Work: Verdi’s Aida” in *Culture and Imperialism* (ER)

March 22

National Identity

Talk by Volker Langbehn, Department of German, SFSU

Howard Woody, “Souvenirs of Imperialism: World's Fair Postcards” in Christraud M.

Geary and Virginia-Lee Webb, eds., *Delivering Views: Distant Cultures in Early Postcards*: (ER)

Please turn in a preliminary bibliography for your review essay.

March 29

Religion

J. P. Daughton, *An Empire Divided*

Julia Clancy-Smith and Frances Gouda, eds., *Domesticating the Empire*: essay by Kipp

April 5

Republicanism

Alice Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize*

April 12 SPRING BREAK

- April 19** **Impact of European Imperialism on the World**
Student-directed reading TBA
- April 26** **Impact of European Imperialism on the World**
Student-directed reading TBA
- May 2** **Wed. 3 p.m. Talk by Sue Peabody, Washington State University on
race and slavery in the 18th-century French Caribbean**
Please make every effort to attend.
- May 3** **Impact of European Imperialism on the World**
Student-directed reading TBA
- May 10** **Impact of European Imperialism on the World**
Student-directed reading TBA
- May 17** **Impact of European Imperialism on the World**
Student-directed reading TBA
- May 24** **Final paper due by 7 p.m.**