

HIST 3443, Modern Imperialism

Fall 2009, MWF 1:30-2:20 p.m.

Old Main 0423



Professor Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon

Office Hours (Old Main 513): By Appointment Only

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Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the history of modern imperialism, analyzing the various manifestations of imperialism from the fifteenth century to the present day. We will do so by comparing and contrasting five of the more prominent empires in world history: the Ottoman Empire, the Spanish Empire, the French Empire, the British Empire, and the American Empire. We will spend three weeks on each, tracing their evolution and examining their methods of colonization. By taking a broader view of imperialism (in contrast to studying a single empire), this course will enable you to examine the concept of imperialism as it has been interpreted throughout time and across the globe. In studying the past, it is also my hope that you will be able to shed light on more contemporary notions of political power and foreign policy.

Required Reading:

- Colin Imber, *The Ottoman Empire*
- Henry Kamen, *Empire: How Spain Became a World Power, 1492-1763*
- Frederick Quinn, *The French Overseas Empire*
- Denis Judd, *Empire: The British Imperial Experience from 1765 to the Present*
- Niall Ferguson, *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*

Assignments and Evaluation:

- Five 2-page analytical book reviews, 10% each (50% total)
- One term paper proposal (including paper title, thesis statement, and working bibliography), 5%
- One term paper draft, 15%
- One 10-12 page term paper, 20%
- Attendance and participation, 10%

Guidelines:*The Readings:*

In this course, you will read five books. You will be assigned readings from these books for each day that the course meets. Completing these readings on the day assigned, before you come to class, is essential to your success in the course. Class discussion forms an integral part of each lecture period and the readings are an important part of this discussion. The readings do not, however, always or even often cover the same material as is covered in lecture, and thus it is vital that you both do the readings *and* come to class. In addition to reading the books, you are also required to complete a 2-page analytical book review on each by the date indicated on the syllabus (see below).

The 2-page analytical book reviews:

The 2-page analytical book reviews should follow a set format. They should include four paragraphs. The first should explain the author's thesis or argument. Another way to think about this first paragraph is to ask why is the author writing? What is the message

that he/she is attempting to articulate to the reader? What does he/she hope to get across to the reader? The second paragraph should contain a summary of the book. What is its basic story? How is it organized? What do the chapters cover? What evidence/historical information does the author use to support his/her argument? The third paragraph should analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Where is the author's argument compelling? Where does it fall short? What is particularly persuasive? What is missing? The fourth paragraph should place the book in the context of the class and the history of modern imperialism. How does the book fit with the lectures and discussions? What does it reveal that the lectures could not or did not? What does it add to our understanding of modern imperialism? How does it complement or conflict with the previous books read this semester? Your book reviews will be evaluated on how well you have understood the material in the book as well as how well you have communicated that understanding in the four paragraphs described above.

The 10-12 page term paper:

The purpose of the term paper is to allow you to look in-depth at an historical topic of your choice, approved by the professor, that is relevant to modern imperialism. Before the final draft of the term paper is due, there are two additional assignments, each of which is graded. A paper proposal, consisting of a provisional title, a thesis statement, and a working bibliography, is due the fourth week of class; a completed draft is due the tenth week of class. These drafts will be returned to you with comments during the fourteenth week of class. This gives you the remaining weeks of the semester to make the necessary revisions. The final draft is due on the last day of class. The time and effort given to the title/bibliography/thesis statement and first draft are equally important to your overall grade as the finished term paper, and thus should be taken seriously. This is a *term* paper and the end result should reflect a term's worth of work.

Classroom Policies:

1). *Academic Dishonesty*: I will not tolerate any cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as submitting someone else's work as your

own. This includes “cutting and pasting” from another text and citing this work only in the bibliography, without specifically indicating which words are not your own. If you do use someone else’s words, you must use quotation marks and cite in footnotes or endnotes the exact book and page number from which you gained the quote. Students caught engaging in academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the class—no excuses, no exceptions.

2). *Inclement Weather Policy*: When Fayetteville City Schools are closed, this class will not meet (even if the university officially remains open). If Fayetteville City Schools remain open, this class will meet. School closings can be found on any number of local media websites, television stations, and radio stations.

3). *Cell Phone Policy*: Cell phone use is prohibited in class. Please make sure that all cell phones are turned off. If a cell phone rings during class time, the professor reserves the right to publicly humiliate and shame the owner of said cell phone. Texting is included within this general policy. Even when done under a desk, texting is distracting and rude, both to professor and to your fellow students.

4). *Laptop policy*: The use of laptops for taking notes is permitted in class. However, the sending of emails, tweets, IMs, or other messages is prohibited. If such messages are sent during class time, the professor reserves the right to ban further use of laptops in class for the remainder of the semester for all students. The use of the internet, likewise, is prohibited in class. To be clear—the only permitted purpose for which a laptop may be used is to take class notes. All other uses are prohibited.

5). *Other media use*: No recordings, either photographic, visual, or audio, may be taken during class time. If this professor finds himself or your fellow students on YouTube or some similar medium, he reserves the right to give the student who obtained the still, video, or audio footage a failing grade for the class.

6). *Food and drink*: Drinks are permitted in class. Eating, however, is not, as it can be distracting to the professor and other students. In a 50 minute class, there is no reason for food to be consumed.

7). *Sleeping*: If you sleep, you will be asked (publicly) to leave the class. Please do not do so.

Lecture Schedule:

PART 1: THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Week 1

Monday, August 24: *Introduction: What is Imperialism? Why study Imperialism?*

Reading: No reading

Wednesday, August 26: *The Origins of the Ottoman Empire*

Reading: Imber, 1-86

Friday, August 28: *The Resurrection and Decline of Empire*

Reading: Imber, 87-127

Week 2

Monday, August 31: *An Influential Empire?*

Reading: Imber, 128-176

Wednesday, September 2: *The Practice of the Ottoman Empire*

Reading: Imber, 177-215

Friday, September 4: *The Experience of the Ottoman Empire*

Reading: Imber, 216-251

Week 3

Monday, September 7: **LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASSES**

Reading: No reading—catch up on all reading thus far

Wednesday, September 9: *Concepts of Nationalism in the Ottoman Empire*

Reading: Imber, 252-317

Friday, September 11: *The Legacy of the Ottoman Empire*

Reading: Imber, 318-325

BOOK REVIEW DUE: Imber, *The Ottoman Empire*

PART 2: THE SPANISH EMPIRE

Week 4

Monday, September 14: *The Origins of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 3-47

Wednesday, September 16: *Into the Americas*

Reading: Kamen, 95-149

Friday, September 18: *The Consolidation of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 151-195

TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

Week 5

Monday, September 21: *The Practice of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 239-281

Wednesday, September 23: *The Peoples of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 331-379

Friday, September 25: *The Zenith of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 381-437

Week 6

Monday, September 28: *The Decline of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 439-485,

Wednesday, September 30: *The Legacy of the Spanish Empire*

Reading: Kamen, 487-512

Friday, October 2: *An Iberian Sidebar: Remembering the Portugal Empire too*

Reading: Kamen, 487-512

BOOK REVIEW DUE: Kamen, *Empire*

PART 3: THE FRENCH EMPIRE

Week 7

Monday, October 5: *The Origins of the French Empire*

Reading: Quinn, 11-36

Wednesday, October 7: *Into New Worlds*

Reading: Quinn, 39-62

Friday, October 9: *New France*

Reading: Quinn, 67-78

Week 8

Monday, October 12: *French India*

Reading: Quinn, 78-101

Wednesday, October 14: *The Practice of French Imperialism in the 19th Century*

Reading: Quinn, 107-131

Friday, October 16: *The Experience of French Imperialism in the 19th Century*

Reading: Quinn, 135-171

Week 9

Monday, October 19: *The Zenith of the French Empire*

Reading: Quinn, 175-215

Wednesday, October 21: *The Decline and Fall of the French Empire*

Reading: Quinn, 219-261

BOOK REVIEW DUE: Quinn, *The French Overseas Empire*

Friday, October 23: NO CLASS—PROFESSOR OUT OF TOWN

Reading: NO READING

PART 4: THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Week 10

Monday, October 26: *The British Empire: Predecessor to American power?*

Reading: Judd, 1-18

Wednesday, October 28: *The Decline of the First British Empire and the Rise of the Second*

Reading: Judd, 18-57

Friday, October 30: *A Changing Empire*

Reading: Judd, 58-130

TERM PAPER DRAFT DUE IN CLASS

Week 11

Monday, November 2: *The New Imperialism*

Reading: Judd, 104-170

Wednesday, November 4: *An Empire in disarray?*

Reading: Judd, 171-257

Friday, November 6: *The Interwar Years*

Reading: Judd, 258-309

Week 12

Monday, November 9: *The Beginning of the End*

Reading: Judd, 310-371

Wednesday, November 11: *Decolonization and the Decline of the British Empire*

Reading: Judd, 372-409

Friday, November 13: *Legacies of the British Empire*

Reading: 410-432

BOOK REVIEW DUE: Judd, *Empire*

PART 5: THE AMERICAN EMPIRE?

Week 13

Monday, November 16: *Theories of American Empire*

Reading: Ferguson, 1-29

Wednesday, November 18: *The History of American Empire, Part I*

Reading: Ferguson, 33-60

Friday, November 20: *The History of American Empire, Part II*

Reading: Ferguson, 61-104

Week 14

Monday, November 23: *The Unacknowledged Empire: The US Post-WWII*

Reading: Ferguson, 105-131

TERM PAPER DRAFT RETURNED WITH COMMENTS

Wednesday, November 25: THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASSES

Reading: No reading

Friday, November 27 THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASSES

Reading: No reading

Week 15

Monday, November 30: *The Practice of American Imperialism Today*

Reading: Ferguson, 132-166

Wednesday, December 2: *A New Kind of Imperialism?*

Reading: Ferguson, 169-226

Friday, December 4: *The Future of American Imperialism*

Reading: Ferguson, 227-302

BOOK REVIEW DUE: Ferguson, *Colossus*

Week 16

Monday, December 7: *Final Thoughts on Modern Imperialism*

Reading: No reading—work on term paper

TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Wednesday, December 9: DEAD DAY—NO CLASSES

Reading: No reading—You are done! Congratulations!