

HIS 350L • History Of Imperialism

39400 • Fall 2012

Meets W 300pm-600pm GAR 2.124

(also listed as LAH 350)

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This course will study a selection of key issues in the history of European expansion overseas, beginning with the mercantilist empires of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, continuing through the era of 'free trade imperialism, and culminating in the so-called 'new imperialism' of the late nineteenth century. The themes to be considered include: the 'world system' of the period, the nature of mercantilism, revisionist views of the chartered companies, the controversy over the acquisition of India in the eighteenth century, the loss of the mainland colonies, the debate over the slave trade and abolition, the rise of free trade, the long-running argument about informal empire, and the nature of 'new' imperialism.

The ultimate aim of the course is to assist students to understand the evolution of the modern world order as seen through from the perspectives of the major powers of the day, principally Britain, but also other European countries and the United States. The course complements Course 350L offered in the Spring semester (2005), but can be studied independently.

Grading Policy

85% written (3,000 word long essay + three 500 word reports); 15% seminar contribution

Texts

Detailed reading will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Relevant studies containing full references to recent scholarship include: the OXFORD HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (Vols.1 and 2, 1998, and 3 and 5, 1999), and P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, BRITISH IMPERIALISM, 1688-2000 (2001).