Syllabus

An Introduction to Imperial History

HSE and London University Double Degree Program in Data Science
and Business Analytics

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Approved “___” ____________ 2018

Academic Supervisor of the Program
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The syllabus is not to be used by other university departments as well as other universities without the permission of the author
Course type: compulsory.

Pre-requisites
This course is designed for undergraduate students with good command of the English language (B2 or higher). It requires general understanding of Russian and world history at the level of the school curriculum.

Content
This course introduces students to the history of empires from the Early Modern Period to the end of the twentieth century. Lectures and readings offer integrated analysis of the social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions of European empires, focusing on the systems of dominance in colonial and continental regimes, the processes of nation-building in multi-ethnic and multi-confessional countries (e.g., the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and Russia), imperial ideological projects in the Modern Period, world wars, mass repressions, and decolonization. Particular attention is given to the history of enslaved and colonized peoples and their interactions with central elites. By the end of the course, students will see that in social sciences, like history, empires remain crucial laboratories for studying violence, identity, power, and ideology, as well as for understanding the present multi-cultural world. The course includes lectures, seminars, one essay, and a final exam.

Seminars
Apart from lectures, students have weekly class sessions that are run in seminar style. Students are expected to complete the reading (primary and secondary source selections assigned for each topic) before class and come prepared to discuss it. The lecturer assesses students’ classroom participation by giving them a mark (a tick or a plus), which depends on how often students contribute to discussions, the quality of statements, arguments, and examples, as well as their general cognition with the
readings. To get the average ($G_{\text{class}}$), all marks of each student will be divided into total number of seminars and multiplied by ten at the end of the third module.

**Essay**

In the essay, students develop their scholarly skills by analyzing a research problem related to the course material. The essay should be at least two thousand words long and contain an explicit statement supported by several arguments and proper examples taken from primary and secondary sources. For more information on how to formulate a statement and support it with arguments and examples, please refer to the book *The Craft of Research* by Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams. When checking the essay, the lecturer pays attention to the structure of the text, the quality of statements, arguments, and examples, as well as the use of corresponding literature. The lecturer assess The essay must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on February 15, 2019. Please note, all essays are checked for plagiarism.

**Final Exam**

The final exam is taken orally at the end of the third module. At the exam, a student picks a question card randomly with one topic based on the course material. The student has up to fifteen minutes to get ready and then he and the examiner talk on the topic from the card. The list of topics will be published one month prior to the exam.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should (1) understand main issues and approaches in imperial history, (2) learn how to formulate a strong research statement, (3) and be able to use relevant supportive argumentation in discussions.
**Preliminary Topics** (lectures: 32 academic hours, seminars: 32 academic hours, academic hours in total: 64)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Hours in Total</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Seminars</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Age of Empires: The Old and the New Worlds in 1500—1700</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Empire, Society, and Culture in the Enlightenment</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Colonial and Continental Regimes in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>The Napoleonic Wars and a New World Order in 1815</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Empires and the Rise of Nationalism in the Long Nineteenth Century</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>World War I: The Suicide of Europe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>From Liberty to Violence: Empires and Revolutions in 1917—1919</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>World War II and the Holocaust</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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Grading Formulae

Cumulative assessment is based on the grades for the essay ($G_{\text{essay}}$) and class discussions ($G_{\text{class}}$):

$$G_{\text{cumulative}} = G_{\text{essay}} \times 30\% + G_{\text{class}} \times 70\%$$

Final assessment results from the cumulative ($G_{\text{cumulative}}$) and exam ($G_{\text{exam}}$) grades:

$$G_{\text{final}} = G_{\text{cumulative}} \times 60\% + G_{\text{exam}} \times 40\%$$

All grades are counted using the ten-point scale. Both cumulative and final grades are rounded to the nearest ten.

Contacts

For any information concerning the content of the course, please contact the lecturer.

Lecturer

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Selected Readings


*European Empires and the People: Popular Responses to Imperialism in France, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Italy*, ed. John M. MacKenzie (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2011).
Fromkin David, A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East (New York: Henry Colt & Co., 1989).


