

Graduate Seminar: Empires in World History, HIST 2716
Spring Semester 2009, Tuesday 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
3501 Posvar Hall

Syllabus

Convenor:

Patrick Manning
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Office hours: Mon 11-12, Tues 4-5

Participating faculty:

Alejandro de la Fuente, Pinar Emiralioglu, Peter Karsten, Richard Oestreicher,
Evelyn Rawski, Jonathan Scott

Organization of the seminar is mostly thematic, and gives substantial attention to the last few centuries. Session leaders explore their chosen themes through imperial examples from selected times and places. In addition, the seminar gives some attention to chronology (at the beginning), plus systems and their development and research design (at the end). Overall, students should become acquainted with empirical descriptions of empires, with historiography on empires, and with numerous thematic approaches toward empires. They may gain a sense of how empires have changed over the past five millennia and how human society has changed in response to empires.

Assignments:

Students will write two sorts of papers:

- (1) a total of six short papers (of 500 – 750 words each) on the readings in weeks of their choice;
- (2) a research design paper of 2500 – 4000 words, defining a research project in the world history of empires, to be submitted before the final class, April 14.

Format of class session

Students will prepare for each session by completing the required readings, by writing short response papers (for half the sessions), by reading the papers of fellow students, and (not least) by reflecting on the accumulation of readings and discussions during the semester. Lead faculty members for each session may choose to direct the discussion, to comment on the discussion, or to make a presentation on the issue for the week and the reading. As a result, format for the seminar will vary from week to week, so that both students and faculty will have to be alert to the emphases in each week's meeting.

Books for purchase, books on reserve

The following books have been ordered and should be available at the university bookstore. On the other hand, you may find it to your advantage to purchase them online.

McNeill, William H. *The Rise of the West* (Week 2)

Maier, Charles, *Among Empires* (Week 4)

Darwin, John, *After Tamerlane* (Week 7)

Allsen, Thomas, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (Week 7)

Fleischer, Cornell, *Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire* (Week 8)

Chase-Dunn, Christopher, and Thomas Hall, *Rise and Demise: Comparing World Systems* (Week 8)

Elliott, John, *Empires of the Atlantic World* (Week 9)

In addition, (1) all available books will be placed on reserve, and (2) readings not otherwise available will be placed on electronic reserve – they will be identified in a subsequent version of this syllabus.

Week 1. January 5 (Patrick Manning): Introduction

S. N. Eisenstadt, *The Political Systems of Empires* (New York, 1963), pp. 1-112, 361-415, 443-447 [PDF]

Week 2. January 12 (Patrick Manning): Chronology

W. McNeill, *Rise of the West* (rev. ed., 1991) – focus on empires throughout the book [online at Pitt]

Week 3. January 19 (Peter Karsten): Military

Presentation: to be arranged

Peter Karsten, "The Military," in 2nd edition, *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* ed. Wm Darity, Vol V, 166-173 [Gale Virtual Reference Library at Pitt; World History Center]

Suggested readings:

Robert L O'Connell, *The Ride of the Second^h Horseman: The Birth and Death of War*, chs. 10-12 [online at Pitt; World History Center]

Walter Kaegi, "Patterns of Political Activity of Armies of the Byzantine Empire," in Morris Janowitz, ed., *On Military Intervention*, 4-35 [book reserve; World History Center]

Peter Karsten, "Irish Soldiers in the British Army, 1792-1922: Suborned or Subordinate?" *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1983), 31-64 [online at Pitt; World History Center]

Steven Cohen, "The Untouchable Soldier: Caste, Politics and the Indian Army," *Journal of Asian Studies*, XXVIII (May 1969) [online at Pitt]

Roger N Buckley, *Slaves in Redcoats: The British West Indies Regiment* [book reserve]

Nakamura & Tobe, "The Imperial Japanese Army & Politics," *Armed Forces & Society*, XIV (Summer, 1988), 511-25 [online at Pitt]

Douglas Porch, "The Invention of Tradition," in Porch, *The French Foreign Legion* [book reserve]

Week 4. January 26 (Patrick Manning): Topics & Debates

Presentation by Dan Bisbee

Charles Maier, *Among Empires* [bookstore]

Week 5. February 3 (Evelyn Rawski): State formation processes.

Presentation by James Hommes

Question for this week :

What are the factors shaping state formation? Outline the debate concerning state formation and the concept of the early modern period. What difference does it make to place state formation within a world history context?

Suggested readings:

- James B. Collins, "State Building in Early-Modern Europe: the Case of France," *Modern Asian Studies* 31.3 (1997): 603-33 [online]
- Nicola di Cosmo, "State Formation and Periodization in Inner Asian History," *Journal of World History* 10 (1999): 1-40 [online]
- Istvan Hont, "The Permanent Crisis of a Divided Mankind: 'Contemporary Crisis of the Nation State,'" *Political Studies* (special issue on 'Contemporary Crisis of the nation State,' John Dunn, ed.) 42 (1994): 166-231 [online]
- Victor Lieberman, "Transcending East-West Dichotomies: State and Culture Formation in Six Ostensibly Disparate Areas," in *Beyond Binary Histories: Re-imagining Eurasia to c. 1830*, ed. Victor Lieberman (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999), pp. 19-102 [book reserve]
- Peter Perdue, "Military mobilization in seventeenth and eighteenth-century China, Russia, and Mongolia," *Modern Asian Studies* 30.4 (1996): 757-93 [online]

Week 6. February 10 (Peter Karsten): Law

Presenation by Charlie Alessi

- Stuart Banner, "Written Law & Unwritten Norms in Colonial St. Louis," *Law & History Review* 14 (1996), 331 ff. [online]
- Lauren Benton, *Law & Colonial Cultures*, Chs. 1-3 & 7 [book reserve]
- Lauren Benton, "From International Law to Imperial Constitutions: The Problem of Quasi-Sovereignty, 1870 – 1900," *Law & History Review* 26 (2008), 595 – 620 [online]
- Charles Cutter, *The Legal Culture of Northern New Spain, 1700 – 1810* [book reserve]
- Peter Karsten, *Between Law and Custom*, pp. 49 – 119, Chs. 2 & 3, and pp. 221 – 266 [book reserve]
- David Konig, "Colonization & the Common law in Ireland and Virginia, 1569 – 1634," in *The Transformation of Early American History*, ed. James Henretta, pp. 70 – 92 [book reserve]
- Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession*, 179 – 193 [online at Pitt]
- Irene Spry, "The Tragedy of the Loss of the Commons in Western Canada," in *As Long as the Sun Shines and the Water Flows*, ed. Ian Getty [World History Center]

Week 7. February 17 (Patrick Manning): Mongol Heritage

Presentation by Ahmet Izmirliglu

- T. Allsen, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* [online at Pitt]
- John Darwin, *After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire Since 1405*, pp. 1-99, 157-294, 490-506 [book reserve]

Week 8. February 24 (Pinar Emiralioglu and Patrick Manning)

Presentation by Izzet Bahar

This class session is divided into two portions, the first focusing on intellectual life and working from the case of the sixteenth-century Ottoman Empire, and the second addressing systems of empire and working from world-systems sociological analysis.

Intellectual Life (Emiralioglu)

- Cornell Fleischer, *Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire: The Historian Mustafa Ali (1541-1600)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. Pages 3-13, and chapters 6, 7, 8, and pages 191-231 [online at Pitt]

Systems of Empire (Manning)

- Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall, *Rise and demise: comparing world systems*

Week 9. March 3 (Jonathan Scott): Early Modern Empire

Presentation by Steven Pitt

This class compares two very different types of European empire seizing resources amid widely diverging American cultures. Elliott's study moves us beyond some obvious contrasts to others, perhaps more important, and to some interesting connections and commonalities. McNeill moves the geographical focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from a continent to islands, and to the European arrival in Polynesia. Our overall focus will be on the precarious technological negotiation of vast distances of time and space.

J.H Elliott, *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830* (New Haven, 2007) Chs 1-8 (pp. 1-254) [online at Pitt]

McNeill, John R, 'Of Rats and Men: A Synoptic Environmental History of the Island Pacific', in *Journal of World History*, 5, (Honolulu, 1994) pp. 299-349 [online]

[March 10 – holiday]

Week 10. March 17 (Richard Oestreicher): Slavery, imperialism, & capitalist development

Presentation by Titas Chakraborty

Charles W. Bergquist, *Labor and the Course of American Democracy: U.S. History in Latin American Perspective*. London: Verso, 1996. HD 8066 B449 1996. Read Chapter 1 [book reserve]

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994. Read Chaps. 1, 3 and 13, pp. 3-29, 51-84, 209-212. [HC254.5 W5 1994] [book reserve]

Seymour Drescher, "Capitalism and Slavery After Fifty Years," *Slavery and Abolition* 18.3 (1997): 212-217 [Hillman journal stacks]

D. Eltis and S. Engerman, "The Importance of Slavery and the Slave Trade to Industrializing Britain," *Journal of Economic History* 60 (2000): 123-44 [online]

Joseph Inikori, *Africans and the industrial revolution in England : a study in international trade and development* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 89-214 [book reserve]

Week 11. March 24 (Richard Oestreicher): Is globalization a new form of imperialism?

Presentation: to be arranged

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire*, Preface and first three chapters, xi-63 [book reserve]

James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, *Globalization Unmasked: Imperialism in the 21st Century*, chapters 1-3, 11-73 [book reserve]

Shalendra D. Sharma, "The Many Faces of Today's Globalization: A Survey of Recent Literature". *New Global Studies*, V2, n2, 2008 [online]

Week 12. March 31. (Alejandro de la Fuente): American Empire

Presentation by Suset Laboy Perez

Ellen Walsh, "Advancing the Kingdom: Missionaries and Americanization in Puerto Rico, 1898-1930s" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pittsburgh, 2007)

Week 13. April 7 (Patrick Manning): Research Design

Patrick Manning, *Navigating World History* (New York, 2003), pp. 183-323 [book reserve]

Week 14. April 14 (Patrick Manning): Wrap-up

Review and discussion of the course and the research design papers.