What is Imperial History?

History 97e
Spring 2017
Thursday 1-4 pm



Bonaparte Before the Sphinx by Jean-Léon Gérôme based on the expedition of the emperor-to-be Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt in 1798-1799

Though empires have recently disappeared from the map, for historians these sprawling multi-ethnic, multi-confessional states remain crucial laboratories for the study of violence, power, ideology, aesthetics, and identity. This section introduces students to the many ways historians define empires, both modern and premodern, and interpret the experiences of those who inhabited them. How does one write the history of such diverse, expansive entities? How does imperial history incorporate the perspectives of disenfranchised and colonized peoples? In what do empires shape historical memory?

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Required books

Jasanoff, Maya. *Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2005.

Howe, Stephen. *Empire: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

All readings not for sale will be provided via the course website.

Assignments and grading

Paper #1: Abstracts (2 x 250 words) and Essay (1000 words) due on **02/07** at 5pm; revised version on **02/14** at 5pm	10%
Paper #2: Historiographic essay (1500 words) due on **02/28** at 5pm; revised version on **03/07** at 5pm	10%
Statement of topic and annotated bibliography due on **03/28**, 5pm Note: this exercise, and the thesis statement and outline and the rough draft for the final paper, will be assigned advisory grades that indicate the likely grade for the final paper, based on the quality of these exercises. These grades are intended as advice. Please take them seriously.	
Paper #3: Primary source analysis (1500 words) due on **04/04** at 5pm: no revision, builds toward final paper	10%
Thesis statement and outline due on **04/11** at 5pm	
Paper #4: Final paper (3500 words) 3 Draft due on **04/18**, 5pm Final revised paper due on **05/03** at 5 pm OR exam date as set by Registrar	30%
Participation in seminar	20%
Participation in tutorial	20%

Essays must be submitted in .doc/.docx/.rtf format via the dropbox located on your course Canvas site so that all members of your tutorial can access them. Word count should *exclude* footnotes.

Course and Section Policies and Guidelines

History 97 is a foundational course in the History concentration and should be your academic priority this term. Seminars meet eight times during the term. Tutorials are held on those weeks that seminars do not meet. Your tutor will contact you with your tutorial assignment. "Peer Review and Paper Discussion" tutorials focus on review of student essays. To facilitate the collective enterprise of learning, you are expected to read and prepare to discuss all of the papers from your tutorial group. Be sure to bring a hard copy of your paper to class so you can refer to it during discussion. Additionally, your tutor will ask you to provide written comments on some or all of your tutorial group's papers. Attendance in both seminars and tutorials is **mandatory**, and active participation is required. Instructors reserve the right to curtail laptop usage in cases where it interferes with discussions.

Unit 1: The Practice of History

Week 1: Thursday, January 26
Introductory seminar

- Read and be prepared to discuss: Stephen Howe, *Empire: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 9-34 (chapter 1: "Who's an Imperialist"?), and pp. 122-129 (chapter 5: "Studying and Judging Empires"). Read as much as possible from the rest. The book can be accessed electronically through Hollis.

- Background reading during the first three weeks of term:
  Charles Maier, *Among Empires: American Ascendance and Its Predecessors* (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2006), 24-77. (chapter 1: "What Is an Empire")

  John Darwin, *After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires since 1405* (Bloomsbury Press: New York, 2008), 1-46. (chapter 1: "Orientations")

Monday January 30: plenary meeting (CGIS Tsai Auditorium/South Concourse, 6-8pm).

Week 2: Thursday, February 2
Seminar

- Read the two secondary sources, paying attention to argument and evidence:
  Kate Grandjean, "New World Tempests: Environment, Scarcity, and the Coming of the Pequot War," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 68:1 (January 2011), 75-100.

  Wendy Anne Warren, "'The Cause of Her Grief': The Rape of a Slave in Early New England," *Journal of American History* 93:4 (March 2007), 1031-1049.

Tuesday, February 7, 5pm: Paper #1 due (2 x 250-word abstracts + 1000-word essay) Write an abstract of each article (Grandjean and Warren) and a 1000-word compare-and-contrast analysis.

Week 3: Thursday, February 9
Tutorial

- Read the papers by the other students in your tutorial and be prepared to lead the discussion of one student's paper to which you will be assigned

Tuesday, February 14, 5pm: revised paper #1 due

Unit 2: Historiography

Understanding successive layers of historical interpretation

Week 4: Thursday, February 16

Seminar

- Read: Maya Jasanoff, *Edge of Empire: Lives, Culture, and Conquest in the East, 1750-1850* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2005).
- Assignment: use E-resources to find 2 book reviews/responses to the assigned reading. Bring a print-out of each and be prepared to present each of these briefly (2 minutes maximum) to the class. In addition, be prepared to explain the way in which you searched for and selected the book reviews.
- Introduction to Hollis/e-resources

Friday, February 17, 10 am-3 pm: please come to office hours (as per sign-up sheet distributed in seminar) to decide on a historical theme/area of interest to you, which will be the focus of paper #2 and will ideally build toward your final paper. This is an appointment held jointly with both your instructors.

Week 5: Thursday, February 23

Seminar: Approaches in imperial history; evaluating secondary sources

- Read: Nicholas Canny, "The Ideology of English Colonization: From Ireland to America," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 30:4 (October 1973), 575-598.

  Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994), 1-110.

  Marcy Norton, "Tasting Empire: Chocolate and the European Internalization of Mesoamerican Aesthetics," *American Historical Review*, 111:3 (2006), 660-691.

- Assignments: identify and read two secondary sources of your choice (ideally one book [OK to read in parts] and one article) on the theme you choose for paper #2. Be prepared to offer a summary (one to two minutes) of the historiographic issues involved that interest you

Tuesday, February 28, 5pm Paper #2 due (1500 words, ca. 5 pp)

Write a historiographic essay comparing and contrasting at least two works of history on a topic of your choice.

Week 6: Thursday, March 2

Tutorial

- Peer review session: read the papers by all the students in your tutorial and be prepared to lead the discussion of one student's paper to which you will be assigned

Tuesday, March 7, 5pm: revised paper #2 due

Week 7: Thursday, March 9

Field trip: Mapping and Empire
Harvard Map Collection, Widener Library
We will examine contemporary maps of the British, French, and Russian (Soviet) empires. In preparation of for the seminar, have a look at the only surviving copy of a full Roman imperial map, the Peutinger Table (in Canvas)

******* Spring break ********

Unit 3: Primary Source Analysis

Week 8: Thursday, March 23
Seminar: Close reading of primary sources

- Read the following primary sources on key foundational moments in the history of three pre-modern empires: the Chinese, the Roman, and the Byzantine. First, assess and analyze each text on its own terms. Second, compare and contrast the sources. Printed hard copies of the texts should be brought to class for the purpose of the close reading and analysis.

China: Sima Qian on the first Chinese emperor and the rise of the Qin, in *The Grand Scribe's Records*, vol. 1: *The Basic Annals of Pre-Han China*, ed. William H. Nienhauser Jr. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), 35-87.

Rome*: Res Gestae Divi Augusti: The Achievements of the Divine Augustus*, trans. P. A. Brunt, and J. M. Moore (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), 19-37 (odd pages only)

Byzantium (New Rome): *Chronicon Paschale, 284-628 AD*, trans. Michael and Mary Whitby (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1989), 15-22.

- Final hour: students begin in-class preparation for capstone meeting presentation

Tuesday March 28, 5pm: statement of topic and annotated bibliography due

Week 9: Thursday, March 30
Tutorial

- Read all the statements of topic and bibliographies of the students in your tutorial. Focus on the nature of historical arguments and the avoidance of historical fallacies

Tuesday: April 4, 5pm: Paper #3 due (1500 words, ca. 5pp): Analysis of a passage from a primary source important to your final paper. The paper is designed to build toward the final paper. No peer review is needed.

Unit 4: Synthesis

Merging historiographic and primary source analyses into a historical argument

Week 10: Thursday, April 6

Seminar: Contextualizing a primary source

- William Gladstone, "England's Mission" in *Nineteenth Century*, 4 (September 1878), 560-584; reprinted in Peter Cain, *Empire and Imperialism: The Debate of the 1870s* (Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1999), 230-260.

Read carefully the article by the British liberal politician and four-time prime minister, at that time (1878) leader of the opposition, and think creatively of the kind of histories you can write using this primary source. What continuities does it fit into and what other sources do you need to use? For background, read Andrew Porter, "Introduction: Britain and the Empire in the Nineteenth Century" in A. Porter (ed.), *The Oxford History of the British Empire*, vol. 3: *The Nineteenth Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 1-27; Michael Partridge, *Gladstone* (London: Routledge, 2003), VIII-XX, 1-5.

- Final hour: students to continue in-class preparation for capstone meeting presentation

Tuesday, April 11: Paper outline due

Week 11: Thursday, April 13

Seminar: Presentations on final paper

- Assignment: prepare a 5-minute oral with handouts, powerpoint, or precis
  Presentations will be followed by 6 minutes of discussion
- Skill: oral presentation with visuals

Tuesday, April 18: Draft final papers due (ca. 3500 words); these should integrate historiographical analysis, primary source analysis, and contextualization

Week 12: Thursday, April 20

Tutorial

- Read the drafts of your peers as assigned

Week 13: Thursday, April 27

Last seminar

Concluding discussion

- Students to finalize capstone meeting presentations in-class

Monday May 1, 6-8pm: capstone event/shared reflections on the whole course, CGIS Tsai Auditorium/South Concourse, 6-8pm. Students to present their visual displays to the entire course: 10 minutes followed by social time.

Revised final paper due (last day of reading period) **OR** on the earliest of the "final deadline" dates for the History 97 seminars, which should be determined by the Registrar at the beginning of spring semester.