EMPIRES

Why do empires rise and fall? Are democracy and empire always a contradiction in terms? Can imperialism be a good thing? For whom? Using classical and contemporary texts, this course explores the origins and fates of empires from Ancient Greece to the present. We shall be especially interested in assessing similarities and differences in both the principles and practices of particular empires, and how those characteristics evolve over time. An overarching aim of the course is to view the global power of the 21st century United States in proper perspective.

While its focus is on power, both its foundations and imperatives, the course has no doctrine to advance. It seeks to provide the materials and framework for lively and open-ended discussion. Perhaps most importantly, this seminar should help you to develop analytical and writing skills without which academic and professional success will be impossible to attain.

Course Requirements:

Active Participation: This is a seminar, not a lecture course, and hence its success or failure ultimately depends on you. You will be expected to complete all the assigned reading before each meeting and to be an active participant in discussion. You will be given some questions in advance to guide your reading and preparation, and you are encouraged to bring to discussion any additional questions that the readings may have prompted. There is no such thing as a stupid question, so please do not be shy.

To assist you in your preparation, on days that formal papers are not due, all students will be required to submit electronically a reaction paper on the day’s assigned readings. During the first week of classes, I will explain how I want this done; you are expected to submit your papers in the requested manner and form, not in the manner and form that is most convenient to you. While it may sound pedantic, this actually guarantees that I will be able to devote adequate time to reading each and every paper before class, rather than wasting time figuring out where your paper is on the network.

Reaction papers are designed to facilitate your engagement with the week’s assigned material and enrich what goes on in our class discussions. Reaction papers will be due by 7:00 am on the day the class in question meets, since I will want to read them before our meeting to help me to shape our discussion that day. Your performance on these informal papers will be factored into your final participation grade.

Papers: The course requires four 4-5 page papers (1000-1250 words) that follow from the readings for a given topic. These are analytical papers and will not require research beyond the material we are reading for class. Concise explanation should be one of the papers' main goals, and a long paper will score poorly in this category. Likewise (although this is rarely a problem), do not attempt to pad or to use excessive margins to meet the four-page minimum.

When preparing your papers, bear in mind that I will react violently to spelling and grammatical errors (they are inexcusable), so please write and proofread carefully. To do this takes time; hence it is wise to aim to complete a draft the day before the paper is due, leaving yourself sufficient time for revision. Remember that the key to good writing is and always has been rewriting.
Rewrites: For every paper, you will have a rewrite option. Rewrites are not mandatory, but you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Even if you get a very good grade (say, a B+) on the first draft, you should still do a rewrite, because your writing and analytical skills will benefit greatly.

Your papers will be due by 4:00 PM in my RCFIA mailbox according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 23</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 30</td>
<td>Rewrite 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 18</td>
<td>Paper 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 28</td>
<td>Rewrite 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 3</td>
<td>Paper 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, November 10</td>
<td>Rewrite 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 22</td>
<td>Paper 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 2</td>
<td>Rewrite 4</td>
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You will have a choice of paper topics. If you wish to discuss a paper topic before sitting down to write, please stop by during my office hours or make an appointment to see me. I will also normally be available after class for consultation.

Finally, our seminar will have a designated peer writing tutor (Kenneth Donahue) and an Academic Consultant for Excellence, otherwise known as an ACE (Caroline Harrington). You will meet Kenneth and Caroline during the first week of classes and are strongly encouraged to make good use of their talents.

Office Hours:

- Monday, 2:20-4:20 PM
- Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 PM
- or by appointment

Grades:

Each paper topic you write on is worth 18% of your final grade. If you do not choose to do a rewrite, your first draft will be worth the entire 18%. If you do choose to rewrite, then I will average the two grades.

The final 28% will be reserved for class participation. Your participation grade will be based on the quality of your participation and the adequacy of your preparation. The participation grades will not be "curved": nothing would make me happier than to witness you all earn A's in this category. But that is up to you.

A word of caution: I will have to insist on a strict paper schedule so that I may devote adequate attention to each and every essay. One-third of a grade (e.g. from B+ to B) will be deducted for each day a paper is late, whether it is a first draft or a rewrite. Only a Dean’s Excuse will waive this penalty.

Web Page:

All the materials for this course will be available 24 hours a day via the FYSE 1134 web page: [http://segue.middlebury.edu/index.php?&action=viewsite&site=fyse1134a-f05](http://segue.middlebury.edu/index.php?&action=viewsite&site=fyse1134a-f05). You will note below that some of your assigned materials are only available on the web.
Course Readings: Required readings available for purchase at the College Store are listed below. There will also be readings not available in any of the books (marked by an asterisk [*] in the syllabus) that you may access via the course web page. In addition, all of the required books are available in the reserve section of our stunning new library. These reserve items can be checked out for a two-hour period.

Required reading books available for purchase at the College Store:


Lieven, Dominic, *Empire: The Russian Empire and Its Rivals* (Yale, 2002).


Roth, Joseph. *The Emperor’s Tomb* (Overlook, 2002).


COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Thursday, September 8—Introduction and Organization

I. RULERS AND RULED: ACCOUNTING FOR THE DOMINANCE OF EURASIA

Monday, September 12—Yali’s Question

Wednesday, September 14—The Roots of Guns, Germs, and Steel
   Reading: Diamond, Part 2, pp. 85-191.

Monday, September 19—Path Dependent Development

Tuesday, September 20—Lecture by James Martin, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Headstrong, “The Meaning of the Twenty-first Century,” 4:30 PM, RAJ ’59 House Conference room. All FYSE 1134 students are expected to attend.
Wednesday, September 21—Human History’s Future

Friday, September 23—Paper 1 due.

II. REIMAGINING DOMINATION: ROME’S LEGACY

Monday, September 26—The Founding of Rome

Wednesday, September 28—Roman Conceptions of Empire


Friday, September 30—Rewrite 1 due.

Monday, October 3—Rome’s Decline and the Christian Revolution
Readings: Pagden, chapters 4-11, pp. 47-169 (finish book)

Tuesday, October 4 or Friday, October 7—Film (two screenings; you may choose your optimal viewing date)
"Peter & Paul and the Christian Revolution" (PBS, 2003)
Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 PM, Library 140
Friday, October 7, 1:15 PM, Library 140

III. IMPERIALISM, BRITISH STYLE

Wednesday, October 5—Why Britain?

Friday, October 7—Archduke Geza von Habsburg, “Art and Politics under the Habsburgs, 1450-1650,” Johnson 304, 4:30 PM. All FYSE 1134 students are expected to attend.

Monday, October 10—The Mission
Reading: Ferguson, chapters 3-4, pp. 93-184.

Tuesday, October 11—Christina Kraus, Yale University, “Hair, Hegemony, and Historiography: Caesar’s Style in his Commentaries,” Twilight 201, 4:30 PM; all FYSE 1134 students are expected to attend.

Wednesday, October 12—The Business of Empire
Reading: Ferguson, chapters 5-6, pp. 185-302.

Monday, October 17—Britain’s Heirs

Tuesday, October 18—Paper 2 due.
IV. EMPIRES COLLIDE: THE OTTOMANS AND HABSBURGS

Wednesday, October 19—Islam Empowered

MIDTERM BREAK—ENJOY!

Monday, October 24—Ottomans vs. Austrians
Andric, chapters V-XIV, pp. 72-185.

Wednesday, October 26—The Sick Man of Europe
Lieven, pp. 351-360.

Thursday, October 27 or Friday, October 28—Film (two screenings; you may choose your optimal viewing date)
“Islam: Empire of Faith” (PBS, 2004)
Thursday, October 27, 7:00 PM, Library 140
Friday, October 28, 1:15 PM, Library 140

Friday October 28—Rewrite 2 due.

Monday, October 31—Austria as a Religion
Reading: Joseph Roth, *The Emperor’s Tomb* (Overlook, 2002), first half of novel.

Wednesday, November 2—The Demise of Habsburg Authority
Readings: Roth, second half of novel (finish book).
Lieven, pp. 343-350.

Friday, November 3—Paper 3 due.

V. THE RUSSIAN AND SOVIET EMPIRES

Monday, November 7—Expansion and Coexistence
Reading: Lieven, pp. 201-339.

Wednesday, November 9—The Empire that Wasn’t: Soviet Power from Lenin to Gorbachev

Friday, November 10—Rewrite 3 due.

Monday, November 14—The Clock of Communism Winds Down
Reading: Remnick, pp. 341-429.
Wednesday, November 16—First Time as Tragedy, Second Time as Farce

Readings: Remnick, pp. 431-490.
   Lieven, pp. 378-411.

Thursday, November 17 or Friday, November 18—Film (two screenings; you may choose your optimal viewing date)

   “Sunshine” (A film by Istvan Szabo, 1999)
   Thursday, November 17, 7:00 PM, Library 140
   Friday, November 18, 1:15 PM, Library 140

Monday, November 21—No new reading; catch-up day.

Tuesday, November 22—Paper 4 due.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

VI. AN AMERICAN EMPIRE?

Monday, November 28—An Empire of a New Type

Readings: Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay. *America Unbound: The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy* (Wiley, 2005), Chapters 1-5, pp. 1-76.

Wednesday, November 30—The Impact of September 11

Reading: Daalder and Lindsay, Chapters 6-9, pp. 77-142.

Friday, December 2—Rewrite 4 due.

Monday, December 5—The Bush Revolution in Foreign Policy

   Daalder and Lindsay, Chapters 10-12, pp. 143-202.

Wednesday, December 7—Whither American Power?

Readings: Odom and Dujarric, Conclusion, pp. 204-218.