

University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of History
Hist 440: History Research Seminar
Topic: "Empires"
Fall 2019
Tues/Thurs 11-12:15 pm
307 Lincoln Hall

Prof. Rama Mantena
Of. 929 UH
Of hrs. 1-2pm Tuesdays and by appointment
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Hist 440 is a requirement for History majors. It is devoted to helping students develop skills in conceptualizing, researching, and writing an individual research project based on primary sources. With this in mind, the seminar will give students the opportunity to explore the theme of "Empires" from ancient to modern histories of imperial expansion. Students will learn about the similarities and differences between the Roman, Ottoman, Spanish, Russian and the British Empire. What kind of political and cultural projects did empires take up? What were their successes and their failures? While the class is focused on the theme of "Empires," we will spend much of the time learning about the process of historical research, how to evaluate primary and secondary sources and how to formulate an argument from the evidence/sources gathered. The main goal of the class will be to produce a research paper (approximately 12-15 pages) at the end of term that will be closely evaluated in class workshops several times giving each student the opportunity to develop their writing and research skills.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

10% Attendance

20% Participation (in-class discussion + oral presentations)

20% Progress reports (total of 3)

50% Final research paper (grade will reflect participation in writing workshops)

Final Paper: Research paper based on a minimum of 4 primary sources and 2 secondary sources.

BOOKS:

Burbank, Jane, and Frederick Cooper. 2010. *Empires in world history: Power and the politics of difference*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.

Darwin, John. 2008. *After Tamerlane: The global history of empire since 1405*. New York: Bloomsbury.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction: History and Memory

Tu (8/27): Introductions

Read:

*[Are Empires Always Bad?](#) *History Today* (July 7, 2019)

*James Grossman, "[Whose Memory? Whose Monuments? History, Commemoration, and the Struggle for an Ethical Past.](#)" *Perspectives on History* (February 1, 2016).

Th (8/29): Empire and memory

*Anthony Pagden, Introduction to *Peoples and Empires* on Blackboard (BB)

*Stephen Howe's "Imperial and Colonial History":

http://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/imperial_post_colonial_history.html

***"Empire, What Empire?" Or, Why 80% of Early- and Mid-Victorians Were Deliberately Kept in Ignorance of It" *Victorian Studies* (Winter 2004) on Blackboard (BB)

*Daniel Immerwahr "How the US has hidden its empire," *The Guardian* (February 15, 2019) (BB)

Week 2: Empires: Definitions and Concepts.

Tu (9/3): Darwin, Ch 1

Discussion: What is an empire? How do the authors define an empire? What are its parts/components?

Th (9/5): Burbank and Cooper, Ch 1

Week 3: Historical Inquiry and The Writing of History

Tu (9/10): Introduction to Historical Research: Preliminary research on topics, primary sources, secondary sources and a bibliography (using handouts)

*Make an appointment with a writing tutor at the UIC writing center during weeks 10-12.

Th (9/12): UIC Library Visit (Meet in library classroom 1-010, the lab in the IDEA Commons): Using the library website for locating sources; identifying a project to write on.

Week 4: Empires, Ancient to Early Modern

Tu (9/17): Burbank and Cooper, Ch 2

Th (9/19): Darwin, Ch 2

Week 5 (9/24-9/26): NO CLASS. Schedule Individual meetings during class time--identify a topic and primary sources.

Week 6 (10/1-10/3): NO CLASS. Independent research to read and collect primary and secondary sources on your research topic. Upload progress report on Blackboard (1 page).

Week 7: Early Modern Empires: Ottomans and the Spanish

Tu (10/8): Darwin, Chs 3, 4

Th (10/10): Burbank and Cooper, Chs 4-5

Week 8 (10/15-10/17) NO CLASS. Work on putting together an annotated bibliography for your topic (include articles, books and primary sources) and work on your thesis statement/argument. Upload progress report on Blackboard (1 page).

Week 9: Modern empires

Tu (10/22): Darwin, Chs 6-7

Th (10/24): Burbank and Cooper, ch 8, 10

Week 10 (10/29-10/31): NO CLASS. Independent research on your paper. Upload progress reports (1 page) on Blackboard.

Week 11: Presentations

Tu (11/5)

Oral presentations: Present your primary sources

Th (11/7)

Oral presentations: Present on your progress with books and articles--summarize key arguments from secondary sources

Weeks 12 (11/12-11/14): NO CLASS. Work on a first draft of your paper.

Week 13: Writing Workshop

Tu (11/19)

First drafts due and emailed to rmantena@uic.edu

Th (11/21)

In-class Workshop on your first draft (bring 2 copies to class)

Week 14 (11/26-11/28): Thanksgiving week--work independently:)

Week 15 (12/3-12/5): Oral presentations of your papers

Final research paper due Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019

Please upload your paper to Blackboard