

# GA.1107 – Intro to Global Histories I: Historical Turns

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New York University

John W. Draper Interdisciplinary Master's Program in Humanities and Social Thought  
Fall 2012

**Location:** Draper Program Conference Room

**Schedule:** Thursday 6:20p-8:20p

**Office:** Draper Program 105

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Phone:** 212-998-2109

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**Course Description:** This course is the first of a two-course sequence designed to move beyond the narrative limits of the nation state, and towards a broader understanding of the global systems and structures that shape human history. The first course in this sequence will focus on the structure and study of empire in global history; the second section, offered in the spring, will focus on the role of the local within global history—the experience of cities, regions, and states often left out of the dominant narratives of globalization, imperial history, or the nation-state. In this first course, the focus will be on the evolution of world and global systems, especially those that take the form of empire or colonialism, linking the core areas of the west to Latin America, Africa, and most of Asia. Colonialism and imperialism dominate our understanding of the West's relationship with much of the world, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century; in no small measure, these two forces shaped the modern world system.

This course will examine the evolution of empire in economic, ideological, cultural, and epistemological terms; we will also consider different approaches to the study of empire and colonialism, and the 'Imperial Turn' in history. The course begins with an overview of the major theories of colonialism and imperialism, both from earlier scholarship and more recent work in Part I, before moving in Part II to an examination of the historical rise of the great Euro-American imperial powers. Part III looks at the social and political dynamics of imperialism and colonial rule, particularly in Southeast Asia, with occasional forays into Africa or the Caribbean. In Part IV we look at the varied paths to confrontation and resistance in the colonies and semi-colonies under western rule. In the final week of the course, we will reflect on our study of imperialism and colonialism, and examine some of the complex legacies of empire, both in post-colonies of South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and elsewhere, as well as the colonial metropole. The nature of empire is complex, and has changed tremendously over time—indeed, it continues to change. Still, the structures of power that we examine in this course have real consequences for former colonies, imperial centers, and the myriad spaces in between these two extremes of empire.

**Evaluation:** The course is designed to facilitate comparison and reflection; as such, students are encouraged to bring their own experiences, interests, and questions into the discussion. Moreover, this course aims to develop students' written and oral presentation skills. With these goals in mind, students shall be evaluated based primarily on a range of writing assignments, including a major research essay, and one formal oral presentation.

- *Class Presentation (20%):* At each class meeting, one student shall begin class with a short formal presentation summarizing the readings and providing some opening questions for discussion. Then the class will have a general discussion of the readings. The presenter shall meet with the instructor to review the presentation in office hours the week preceding.

- *Class Participation (10%)*: Students are responsible for reviewing all the readings assigned for each week, and must submit questions for discussion to the instructor in advance. Attendance at all classes is required.
- *Short Essays (30% - 15% per essay)*: At the start of class in Week 4, students shall submit a short essay (3-5 pages) covering the readings and our discussion in Part I. In the final week, students shall submit a second short essay (3-5 pages) on a topic that will be discussed in class.
- *Research Essay (40%)*: In Week 13, students shall submit a 20-25 page paper on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students shall submit a one-page outline of their proposed project and a bibliography by Week 9, and then meet with the instructor for individual appointments to be arranged in class.

**Course Aims:** The readings and assignments are designed not to communicate my opinion, but to provide the basis for discussion and to stimulate debate. The primary goals of this course are: 1) to impart a basic but critical understanding of the history and importance of imperialism and colonialism in global history, and 2) to develop formal presentation and academic writing skills.

**Website:** The Blackboard website for the course will provide access to most of the key readings for the course. In addition, since the purpose of a seminar is to facilitate discussion based on key questions, themes, and readings, there is no reason why the discussion has to stop outside the classroom. As such, the website will provide us with an online discussion forum for each weekly topic. Students may be asked to post online in certain weeks as part of their Weekly Participation grade.

**Readings:** Many of the readings will be available on line in PDF format through the Blackboard site for the course. In anticipation of your research essays, a longer list of additional or supplementary readings for each topic can be provided. Readings marked ‘\*\*\*’ are entirely optional, but may be especially useful for your research essay.

The following books may be worth purchasing online, or can be found in Bobst Library:

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-systems analysis : an introduction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

Maier, Charles S. *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*. Boston, 2006.

Watts, Sheldon. *Epidemics and History: Disease, Power and Imperialism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, 2006.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **PART I: CONCEIVING WORLD/GLOBAL HISTORY**

#### **(9/6) WEEK 1: Introduction**

Mazlish, Bruce. "Comparing Global History to World History." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 28, no. 3 (January 1, 1998): 385–395.

Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *The world system in the thirteenth century : dead-end of precursor?* Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 1993.

#### **(9/13) WEEK 2: Theories and Foundations – World Systems**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16, no. 4 (September 1, 1974), pp. 387–415. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/178015>)

Stern, Steve J. "Feudalism, Capitalism, and the World-System in the Perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean," *American Historical Review* 93:4 (October 1988), pp. 829-72. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1863526>; Also see rebuttal by Immanuel Wallerstein [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1863527>] and reply by Stern [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1863528>])

Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, pp. 3-72.

Braudel, Fernand. *The Perspective of the World*. New York, 1984, pp. 21-88.

Andre Gunder Frank. *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, pp. 1-34 (read 34-38 for an outline of the whole book).

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

\*\*Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-systems analysis : an introduction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

\*\*Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *Before European hegemony : the world system A.D. 1250-1350*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989, pp. 3-38 (Intro), 352-72 (Conclusion).

#### **(9/20) WEEK 3: Theories and Foundations – Imperialism & Colonialism**

Kumar, Krishan, "Nation-States as Empires, Empires as Nation-States: Two Principles, One Practice?," *Theory and Society* 39:2 (2010), pp. 119-143. (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/w58m274u85813632/fulltext.pdf>)

Mommsen, Wolfgang. *Theories of Imperialism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980, pp. 3-28, 70-112.

Gallagher, John and Ronald Robinson, "The Imperialism of Free Trade," *Economic History Review* VI, no. 1 (1953), pp. 1-15. (<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/ipe/gallagher.htm>)

Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, pp. 73-126.

Magdoff, Harry. "Imperialism without Colonies," in *Imperialism: From the Colonial Age to the Present*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1978, pp. 117-47.

Jackson, Peter A. "The Ambiguities of Semicolonial Power in Thailand." In *The Ambiguous Allure of the West: Traces of the Colonial in Thailand*, Rachel V. Harrison and Peter A. Jackson, eds. Ithaca: Cornell Southeast Asia Program Publications, 2010, pp. 37-56.

#### RECOMMENDED:

\*\*Lenin, V.I. *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. New York, 1939, pp. 71-81.

\*\*Hobson, J.A. *Imperialism: A Study*. London, 1938, pp. 3-27, 196-216.

\*\*Kennedy, Paul M. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*. New York, 1987, pp. xv-xxiv, 3-30.

\*\*Hechter, Michael. *Internal colonialism: the Celtic fringe in British national development*. Transaction Publishers, 1999, pp. 3-46.

**[First Short Essay (3-5 pages). Considering the challenges of writing global history, write an essay critically assessing the perspectives offered by the authors from weeks 2 and 3. Where are these authors strongest? Where does their analysis fall short? Due before class in week 4.]**

## PART II: IMPERIAL HISTORIES

### (9/27) WEEK 4: Western Empire I – The Trading Empires

Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, pp. 127-57, 232-61.

Kamen, Henry. *Empire: How Spain Became a World Power, 1492-1763*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003, pp. 197-237 (Chap. 5), 439-512 (Chap. 10 + Concl).

Ricklefs, M. C. *A History of Modern Indonesia since c. 1200*, 4th ed. Stanford, 2008, pp. 25-35, 126-142.

### (10/4) WEEK 5: Western Empire II – High Colonial Britain and France

Ferguson, Niall. *Empire: the rise and demise of the British world order and the lessons for global power*. New York: Basic Books, 2003, pp. ix-xxvi (Intro), 1-43 (Why Britain?).

Parsons, Timothy. *The British Imperial System, 1815-1914: A World History Perspective*. Lanham, MD, 1999, pp. 33-58, 91-117.

Kramer, Paul. "Empires, Exceptions, and Anglo-Saxons: Race and Rule Between the British and United States Empires, 1880-1910," *Journal of American History* 88, no. 4 (March 2002), pp. 1315-1353.

Hack, Karl. "Imperial Systems of Power, Colonial Forces, and the Making of Modern Southeast Asia," in Karl Hack and Tobias Rettig, eds. *Colonial Armies in Southeast Asia*. New York, 2006, pp. 3-38.

**(10/11) WEEK 6: Western Empire III – American Anti-Imperial Empire**

Maier, Charles S. *Among Empires: American Ascendancy and its Predecessors*. Boston, 2006.

## RECOMMENDED:

- \*\*Ninkovich, Frank A. *The United States and imperialism*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2001.
- \*\*Go, Julian. “The Provinciality of American Empire: ‘Liberal Exceptionalism’ and U.S. Colonial Rule, 1898–1912.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49, no. 01 (2007): 74–108. ([http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract\\_S0010417507000412](http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0010417507000412))
- \*\*Kaplan, Amy. “Left Alone with America’: The Absence of Empire in the Study of American Culture,” in Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, ed. *The Cultures of U.S. Imperialism*. Durham, 1993, pp. 3-21.

**PART III: CULTURES AND STRUCTURES OF EMPIRE****(10/18) WEEK 7: The Colonial State**

- Young, Crawford. *The African colonial state in comparative perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994, pp. 77-140 (Chap. 4).
- Tarling, Nicholas. *Imperialism in Southeast Asia: “A Fleeting, Passing Phase.”* New York, 2001, pp. 159-230.
- Scott, James C. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, 1998, pp. 1-52.
- Go, Julian. “Chains of Empire, Projects of State: Political Education and U.S. Colonial Rule in Puerto Rico and the Philippines,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 42, vol. 2 (April 2000), pp. 333-62. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2696609>)

## RECOMMENDED:

- \*\*Young, Crawford. *The African colonial state in comparative perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994, pp. 43-76 (Chap. 3).

**(10/25) WEEK 8: Imperial Landscapes - Urban Spaces and Colonial Ecologies**

- Murphey, Rhoads, “Traditionalism and Colonialism: Changing Urban Roles in Asia,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 29:1 (1969), pp. 67-84. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2942524>)
- McGee, T.G. *The Southeast Asian City: A Social Geography of Primate Cities of Southeast Asia*. New York, 1967, pp. 29-75 (esp. 52-75).
- Chopra, Preeti. *A Joint Enterprise: Indian Elites and the Making of British Bombay*. U of Minnesota Press, 2011, pp. 1-30 (Chap. 1). (<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/nyulibrary/docDetail.action?docID=10479184>)
- Geertz, Clifford. *Agricultural Involution*. Berkeley, 1963, pp. 47-103.
- Vandergeest, Peter, and Peluso, Nancy Lee, “Empires of Forestry: Professional Forestry and State Power in Southeast Asia, Part 1,” *Environment and History* 12 (2006), pp. 31-64. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20723562>)

Biggs, David, "Breaking from the Colonial Mold: Water Engineering and the Failure of Nation-Building in the Plain of Reeds, Vietnam," *Technology & Culture* 49:3 (2008), pp. 599-623. ([http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/technology\\_and\\_culture/v049/49.3.biggs.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/technology_and_culture/v049/49.3.biggs.html))

#### RECOMMENDED:

##### Urban Spaces:

- \*\*Parker, John. *Making the Town*. Heinemann, 2000.
- \*\*Reid, Anthony. *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680. Volume Two: Expansion and Crisis*. New Haven, 1993, pp. 62-114.
- \*\*Logan, William, "Land of the Lotus-Eaters: Vientiane under the French," in *Vientiane: Transformations of a Lao Landscape*, eds. Marc Askew, William Logan and Colin Long. London: Routledge, 2007, pp. 73-110.
- \*\*Reed, Robert R., *Colonial Manila*. Berkeley, 1978, pp. 1-16, 27-63.

##### Colonial Ecologies:

- \*\*Geertz, Clifford. *Agricultural Involution*. Berkeley, 1963, pp. 12-46.
- \*\*Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, pp. 310-53.
- \*\*Brocheux, Pierre. *The Mekong Delta: Ecology, Economy, and Revolution, 1860-1960*. Madison, 1995, pp. 1-50.
- \*\*Grove, Richard, "Conserving Eden: The (European) East India Companies and Their Environmental Policies on St. Helena, Mauritius and in Western India, 1660 to 1854," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35:2 (1993), pp. 318-351. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/179402>)

### **(11/1) WEEK 9: Cultures and Literatures of Imperialism**

- Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York, 1978, pp. 31-110.
- Said, Edward W. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York, 1993, pp. 3-43.
- Pratt, Mary Louise. *Imperial eyes: travel writing and transculturation*. London; New York: Routledge, 2008, pp. 15-67.
- Cannadine, David. *Ornamentalism: How The British Saw their Empire*. Oxford, 2001, pp. 3-10, 58-70, 121-35.
- Stoler, Ann Laura and Frederick Cooper. "Between Metropole and Colony: Rethinking a Research Agenda," in Ann Stoler and Frederick Cooper, eds., *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997, pp. 1-52. (<http://california.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1525/california/9780520205406.001.0001/upso-9780520205406-chapter-1>)
- Thongchai Winichakul. "Trying to Locate Southeast Asia from Its Navel: Where Is Southeast Asian Studies in Thailand?," in Paul H. Kratoska, Remco Raben, and Henk S. Nordholt, eds., *Locating Southeast Asia: Geographies of Knowledge and Politics of Space*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005, pp. 113-32.



**(11/8) WEEK 10: Science and Medicine**

Watts, Sheldon. *Epidemics and History: Disease, Power and Imperialism*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999, pp. xi-xvi, 84-121, 213-68, 269-79.

Anderson, Warwick. *Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006, pp. 74-103, 158-179.

**[Research Paper Outline and Bibliography Due]****(11/15) WEEK 11: Race, Sex, and Identity**

Stoler, Ann Laura, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: Cultural Competence and the Dangers of Métissage," in *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), pp. 79-111

Taylor, J. G. *The Social World of Batavia: European and Eurasian in Dutch Asia*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2009, skim all, read chapters 3 and 6. (available at <http://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780299232139/>)

Rafael, Vicente L. *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2000, pp. 19-51.

**(11/22) Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class... enjoy the break!****PART IV: EMPIRE AND RESISTANCE****(11/29) WEEK 12: Resistance I – Peasant Movements**

Orwell, George. "Shooting an Elephant," (<http://www.online-literature.com/orwell/887/>).

Scott, James C. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. New Haven, 1985, pp. 48-85.

Scott, James C. *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. New Haven, 1990, pp. 1-16.

Scott, James C. *Moral Economy of the Peasant*. New Haven, 1976, pp. 56-90, 193-240

Brocheux, Pierre, "Moral Economy or Political Economy? The Peasants Are Always Rational," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 42:4 (1983), pp. 791-803.

Aung-Thwin, Maitrii. "Structuring Revolt: Communities of Interpretation in the Historiography of the Saya San Rebellion." *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 39, no. 02 (2008): 297–317. ([http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract\\_S0022463408000222](http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0022463408000222))

**RECOMMENDED:**

\*\*Ramsay, Ansil, "Modernization and Reactionary Rebellions in Northern Siam," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 38, no. 2 (February 1979): 283-297. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2053420>)

\*\*Shigeharu Tanabe. "Ideological Practice in Peasant Rebellions: Siam at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." In *History and Peasant Consciousness in South East Asia*. Osaka: National Museum of Ethnology, 1984, pp. 75–110.

\*\*Kerkvliet, Ben. *The Huk Rebellion*. Berkeley, 1977, pp. xi-xvi, 1-25, 26-60.

\*\*Carey, Peter, "Waiting for the 'Just King': The Agrarian World of South-Central Java from Giyanti (1755) to the Java War (1825-30), *Modern Asian Studies* 20, no. 1 (1986), pp. 59-137. ([http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract\\_S0026749X00013603](http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0026749X00013603))

### (12/6) WEEK 13: Resistance II - Contested Nationalisms

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, 2006.

Anderson, Benedict, "The First Filipino" and "The Goodness of Nations," in *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia, and the World*. London: Verso, 1998, pp. 227-234; 360-68.

Rizal, José. *Noli Me Tangere*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1996, pp. 62-66, 164-174.

Chatterjee, Partha. *The nation and its fragments : colonial and postcolonial histories*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1993, pp. 3-13 (Whose Imagined Community?).

**[Research Paper due]**

## CONCLUSION: THE LEGACIES OF EMPIRE

### (12/13) WEEK 14: What next? The Decline and Legacy of Empire

Ferguson, Niall. *Civilization : the West and the Rest*. London & New York: Allen Lane, 2011, pp. 295-325 (Conclusion).

Young, Crawford. *The African colonial state in comparative perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994, 244-92 (Chap. 8 + 9).

Ghosh, Durba. "Another Set of Imperial Turns?" *The American Historical Review* 117, no. 3 (June, 2012): 772-793. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/ahr.117.3.772>)

McCoy, Alfred W. *Policing America's Empire: The United States, the Philippines, and the Rise of the Surveillance State*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2009, pp. 15-56.

#### RECOMMENDED:

\*\*Anderson, Benedict. "Cacique Democracy in the Philippines," *The Spectre of Comparisons: Nationalism, Southeast Asia and the World* (London, 1998), pp. 192-226.

\*\*Anderson, Benedict. "Old State, New Society: Indonesia's New Order in Comparative Historical Perspective," *Language and Power: Exploring Political Cultures in Indonesia*. Ithaca, 1990, pp. 94-120.

\*\*Kennedy, Paul M. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*, New York, 1987, pp. 438-447, 488-535.

\*\*Fieldhouse, D.K. *The Colonial Empires*, London, 1982, pp. 395-428.

\*\*Johnson, Chalmers, *The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic* (New York, 2004), pp. 217-253, 283-312.

\*\*Low, Donald A. *Eclipse of Empire*. Oxford, 1991, pp. 297-325.

\*\*McMahon, Robert J. *Limits of Empire: The United States and Southeast Asia since World War II*. New York, 1999, pp. 182-217.

**[Final short essay due by 1:00pm, Wed, 12/12, on topic to be discussed in class]**