

History Major Field

COLONIAL AND IMPERIAL

Field Description

The history of Colonialism and Imperialism bridges the premodern and modern and encourages students to expand their expertise in an innately comparative and global field. Students parse the meaning of colonialism and imperialism, and ask how we should define “empire” over time and across space. The curriculum covers a wide range of these entities, from multi-ethnic land empires to practices of settler colonialism, industrial-age imperialism, economic exploitation of peripheries by cores, and the long-term causes and effects of global disparities.

Students within this concentration confront a wide range of trans-historical questions: How did empires foster, accommodate or manipulate differences in their populations? To what extent were violence, diversity, commerce and culture tools of colonial order, and how could these be utilized against it? How was the dominant dichotomy of colonizer vs. colonized complicated and undermined by indirect rule, hybridity, Creolization and each side’s appropriation of the other’s culture? How did identity in imperial contexts intersect with other forms of socially constructed difference, from race and class to gender and sexuality? What varieties of political ideology and anti-colonial thought did imperialism engender, and where did resistance to such rule center? In what ways has the environment been shaped by the practices of imperial polities? What are the legacies of colonialism, imperialism and decolonization in historical memory and nation-making?

Courses

HIST 120 – Early Latin America
HIST 121 – Modern Latin America
HIST 146 – Modern Africa
HIST 156 – History of India
HIST 160 – Modern East Asia
HIST 163 – Modern China
HIST 218 – History of Mexico
HIST 242 – Americans in Africa
HIST 246 – Urban Africa
HIST 226 – Modern Britain and the Empire
HIST 231 – Habsburg Empire
HIST 233 – Russian Empire and Soviet Union: Histories, Peoples, Cultures
HIST 258 – Ottoman Empire
HIST 260 – Medieval and Islamic Empires
HIST 261 – The Mongol Empire
HIST 314 – America and the World
HIST 321 – The Mexican Revolution
HIST 323 – Borderland History
HIST 345 – History of the Indian Ocean
HIST 349 – Contemporary West African History Through Fiction and Film
HIST 350 – Race, Resistance and Revolution in South Africa
HIST 371 – Colonial Body Politics
HIST 373 – Women of the Atlantic World
HIST 374 – The Atlantic World
HIST 444 – Faith and Power in Africa