

## HIST 497: Special Topics in World History Global Empires



**History 497**  
Wednesday  
3 credit hours  
Spring Term 2014  
Elizabeth City State University

Dr. Charles V. Reed  
Assistant Professor  
Office: Moore Hall 265  
Phone: (252) 335-3201  
E-mail: [cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu](mailto:cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu)

**Blackboard Course Site/Blog:** <http://ecsu.blackboard.com/>  
**Empire Project Wiki:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

### Course Description

This Special Topics course explores the role of empires, broadly conceived, in World History from the earliest states of the Fertile Crescent to the great land empires of Eurasia, from the empires of trade in the Atlantic and Indian basins to the neo-imperialisms of the United States, Soviet Union, China, and Western Europe during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries (though most of the course material will focus on the period after c. 1400). Students will examine the definitions and meanings of empire, imperialism, and colonialism; how empires of conquest/expansion, trade, and settlement were made; how imperial rule/governance and law were imposed and maintained; what role “colonized peoples” had in the making of empires; how law, status, and identity were forged for both “colonizers” and “colonized” in the fires of the encounter; as well as the cultural and ideological apparatus that justified the spread and maintenance of empires.

As a course that fulfills the World History requirement for majors, we will pay considerable attention to non-European empires and – in the case of early modern and modern European empires – how empire was experienced by the people of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. We will examine empire chronologically and geographically (e.g. Persian, Ottoman, British Empires); thematically (law, culture, administration, gender); and comparatively (e.g. how methods of rule varied; how power was distributed between those from the “core” and those from the “periphery”). Interdisciplinary (e.g. historical anthropology) and multiple historical perspectives (e.g. post-colonial studies, the New Imperial History, etc) will be used as different prisms through which to examine the experience of empire.

**PREREQUISITES:** 12 hours (4 courses) in History.

### Course Readings

#### Required books:

Stephen Howe, *Empire: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2002). ISBN 978-0-19-280223-1.

Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton, 2010). ISBN 978-0-691-15236-3.

Ainslie Embree and Mark Carnes, *Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence, 1945* (Pearson, 2005). ISBN 978-0321355850.

**Other readings will be available in the Electronic Reserve folder on our Blackboard course site.**

### **Program Outcomes (History)**

The program in History at ECSU is designed to provide students with a broad liberal arts education, create an environment for students to develop academic skills in understanding their culture, history and those of other societies and nations. The History program is committed to preparing thoughtful citizens and productive members of a global society through the utilization of diverse pluralistic curricula. The program is organized to prepare students for advanced study in history and law, as well as prepare students for careers in education, public history, government, research and other related occupations throughout the world.

1. Majors will be able to employ historical methods in the selection and use of a variety of resources (primary, secondary, historical and interdisciplinary).
2. Majors will be able to analyze a variety of primary and secondary resources, to draw conclusions about historical occurrences across time and throughout the world.
3. Majors will be able to analyze and provide in depth identification of motives, reasons and causes and effects of specific historical occurrences across time and throughout the world.
4. Majors will be able to produce an original piece of historical research that answers a specific historical question, using a variety of primary and secondary, historical and interdisciplinary resources.
5. Majors will be able to critically assess issues, events, ideas and theories of various periods of history, while showing an ability to engage in differing interpretations regarding those issues, events, ideas and theories.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to employ historical methods in the selection and use of a variety of resources (primary, secondary, historical and interdisciplinary) in the development of research-based wiki articles.
2. Students will be able to analyze a variety of primary and secondary resources, to draw conclusions about historical occurrences across time and space in the history of global empires.
3. Students will be able to analyze and provide in depth identification of motives, reasons and/or causes and effects of empire.
4. Students will be able to critically assess issues, events, ideas and theories across the history of empires while showing an ability to engage in differing interpretations regarding those issues, events, ideas and theories.

### **Course Evaluation**

Your final grade will be computed according to your performance in the following activities:

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>VALUE</b>	<b>DUE DATE*</b>
<b>Course Blogs and Participation</b>	30%	Monday / Wednesday (weekly)
<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	15%	10 March
<b>Wiki Project</b> - Bibliography and article list	40% (5%)	24 February

- Draft articles	(10%)	31 March
- Peer reviews	(5%)	14 April
- Final articles	(20%)	28 April
<b>Final Examination</b>	15%	5 May (graduating seniors) / 7 May (all other students)

**Course Blog and Participation (30%)**

The study of history is not simply a passive process of remembering names and dates or of uncovering obscure or unknown facts (though these things are part of it). It is an active process – a full-contact sport, some say – of interpretation, disagreement, and argumentation. **This said, all students will be expected to offer informed and thoughtful participation.**

**By Monday of each week**, you should write **250-300 words in course blog** that summarize and respond to one or more of the week’s readings or answers a specific question or question posed by your instructor. **By Wednesday**, you should respond to **at least two (2) classmates’ posts**, offering informed commentary or questions about their analysis. **You should not simply agree or disagree; be sure to contribute something unique to the conversation.**

**Mid-Term Examination (15%)**

The **mid-term examination** is due by **10 March by 11:59 pm**. It will consist of term identifications, short answer questions, and an essay. **The exam will be distributed at least one week in advance of the due date.**

**Wiki Project (40%)**

Over the course of the semester, **you will contribute to and edit a wiki reference source called *The Empire Project***. After we complete the publication – a nice addition to your resume or c.v. – other observers and contributors will be able to **read, contribute to, and suggest revisions to our wiki.**

Each group (2-3 people) will research and write about one empire. While all students will be trained in working on the wiki site, the group may wish to charge one member with the more technical aspects of the project. Collectively, we will research, write, and edit the wiki. More details will be provided on the number of articles required, length requirements, etc. at a later date, but the major assignments for the project include:

**Wiki bibliography and updated article list (24 February):** Each group will submit an initial bibliography of sources for their project and an updated list of articles that they propose to develop.

**Wiki draft articles due (31 March):** A draft of each article should be posted to the wiki by this date. Images, citations, and sources should be included.

**Wiki peer reviews due (14 April):** By this date, students should peer review the required number (TBD) of articles, using the editing and article discussion tools on the wiki.

**Final wiki articles due (28 April):** Your articles should be complete by this date and ready for evaluation by the instructor.

**Final Examination (15%)**

The **final examination** is due by 11:59 pm on 5 May (graduating seniors) or 7 May (all other students). It will consist of term identifications, short answer questions, and one or more essays. **The exam will be distributed at least one week in advance of the due date.**

Course Schedule		
Date / Topics	Activities / Assignments	Readings
20 January King Holiday – no class		
27 January Introductions and Definitions	<i>Forge of Empires</i> (online game) activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howe, Introduction and ch. 5</li> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, preface</li> <li>▪ Anthony Padgen, "That Peculiar Word 'Imperium'" [ER]</li> </ul>
3 February Origins of Empires	Wiki Training Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howe, ch. 1</li> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 1</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Jared Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
10 February Rome and China		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howe, ch. 2</li> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 2</li> <li>▪ <b>Artifact:</b> terracotta army</li> </ul>
17 February After Rome: The Byzantine Empire Christianity, and Islam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 3</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Anthony Padgen, <i>Worlds at War</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
24 February Afro-Eurasian Connections	<b>Wiki Project bibliography and updated article list due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, chs. 4 and 8</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Kenneth Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ <b>Source:</b> Excerpts from <i>Ibn Battuta in Black Africa</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
3 March Beyond the Mediterranean: Ottoman and Iberian Empires		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch.5</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Suraiya Faroqhi, <i>Subjects of the Sultan</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Stuart B. Schwartz, <i>Victors and Vanquished</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ <b>Artifact:</b> <i>casta</i> paintings</li> </ul>
10 March	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>  <b>Film:</b> <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excerpts from Edward Said, <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
17 March Spring Recess		
24 March		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howe, ch. 3</li> </ul>

Empires of Trade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 6</li> <li>▪ Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “Connected Histories” [ER]</li> <li>▪ <b>Source:</b> Journals of Sir Thomas Rowe [ER]</li> <li>▪ <b>Artifact:</b> Kilwa pot shards</li> </ul>
<b>31 March</b> Empire, Nation, and Citizenship in a Revolutionary Age	<b>Wiki Project draft articles due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 8</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Jane Hathaway, ed., <i>Al-Jabarti's History of Egypt</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Martin Ros, <i>Night of Fire</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
<b>7 April</b> Empires Across Continents: Russia and the United States		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 9</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Ilya Vinkovetsky, <i>Russian America</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Paul Avrich, <i>Russian Rebels</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ <b>Source:</b> Cherokee Removal source packet</li> </ul>
<b>14 April</b> Colonial Encounters in the Nineteenth-Century World	<b>Wiki Project peer reviews due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, ch. 10</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Niall Ferguson, <i>Empire</i> [ER]</li> <li>▪ Excerpts from Richard Gott, <i>Britain's Empire</i> [ER]</li> </ul>
<b>Ms.21 April</b> Easter Monday – no class		
<b>28 April</b> War and Revolution in a World of Empires: 1914 to present	Defining a Nation: India on the Eve of Independence, 1945 (Reacting to the Past mini-game)  <b>Final Wiki Project articles due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howe, ch. 4</li> <li>▪ Burbank and Cooper, chs. 12-13, <i>skim</i> ch. 14</li> <li>▪ <i>Defining a Nation</i> game book and role sheet</li> </ul>

**Final Examination due by 11:59 pm 5 May 2013 (graduating seniors) and 7 May 2013 (all other students)**