Description

Scholarly prejudice says that empire-building is part of the Enlightenment project and a eurocentric phenomenon related to modern capitalism. Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri's *Empire*, however, has opened our eyes to the possibility that the empires rising from European colonization since the early modern period might be only some forms of a more general property of nation states. This course will take on the project of globalization as a framework for research on Empire, culture, and media, outside the framework of the nation-state that has been the norm for a century.

To establish new ways for thinking about empires in terms of globalization and culture transfer, medialization, and transnational culture studies, case studies drawn form moments of cultural contact within imperial frameworks will be interrogated as to what kinds of cultural capital are involved and how that capital is transacted. In other words, it will focus on the cultural mechanisms of globalization and empire in order to attack myths about cultural dominance and hegemony of the nation-state that have guided our scholarly work at least since Said's *Orientalism* and Kirkpatrick Sales' work on first contact in the Americas.

After an introduction to the phenomenon of globalization, the course will be devoted to explorations of various forms of globalization, including:

- Economic globalization
- Political globalization
- Cultural/media globalization
- Ecological globalization
- "Empire" and its offshoots

In each case, one or more categories of cultural objects will be traced from a source to a target within an imperial formation -- either a political empire, or a more metaphoric one. Each case study will be contextualized in history.

The class will be devoted to additional theory readings and to students' work on their own projects involving imperial cultures. It will be constructed as a work-in-progress seminar, interrogating how research and interpretation in cultural studies is to be conducted. That research will be conducted and submitted in stages. The overall goal is to help students figure out the map of the cultural and political forces beyond the nation-state that are determining of world culture -- and not only in terms of marginalization and hegemony.

Readings

History and theory readings will be available on Blackboard; specific cultural artifacts (usually literature and art, but sometime architecture) will be chosen as centers of cultural studies. Each case study will also be represented by the secondary literature which has canonized it into scholarly studies.

Assignments and Grading:

- 3 précis = 3 x 5 % = 15 % of final grade
- presentation on your project area (3 minute oral) = 10% of final grade;
- research plan and abstract of final project = 20% of grade;
- class presentation on research (5 minutes, on area of globalization research) = 20% of grade;
- final paper = 35% of grade
Tuesday  
Introduction to the class:  
globalization as a heuristic for research and interpretation

PART 1: Setting the Stage

Thursday  
The Faces of Globalization: Defining the Phenomenon

Week 2: 25, 27 January

Tuesday  
Stating the Problem

Thursday  
Founders of the Global Optic, 1: Wallerstein and Economics
Wallerstein. "Modern World-System as Capitalist World-Economy."
**Follow the links on his wiki page to his group; read around

Week 3: 1, 3 February

Tuesday  
The Optic of Global Economics: Case Studies
*The Case of Trade China: Global Commodities*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcelain
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedgwood
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meissen_porcelain
http://www.augarten.at/en/history/

*The Case of Russian Gold: Global Banking*
McMeekin, *History's Greatest Heist*, 1-91

Thursday  
Failures of Global Economies
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sea_Company

Week 4: 8, 10 February

Tuesday  
Founders of the Global Optic, 2: Harvey and Geography, the Optic of Political Power
Harvey. "The Right to the City."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Harvey_%28geographer%29
**Follow the many links on his wiki page and read around

Thursday  
Ferguson, *Empire*, esp. 1-136
Week 5: 15, 17 February
Tuesday Global Cities, Cities and Globalization

Thursday Ecological Globalization
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngo
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agricultural_economics
Lena Khor, chapter on "Doctors without Borders" and the Nobel Prize

• Précis 1 due: Any essay

Week 6: 22, 24 February
Tuesday Jasanoff. "Biotechnology and Empire"
Edwards. "Meteorology as Infrastructural Globalism."
Gaudillière. "Science, Technology, and Globalization"

Thursday 3-minute presentations due: your site of globalization

Week 7: 1, 3 March
Tuesday Presentations, continued.
Revisiting the idea of Global Research

Thursday No class: instructor in Salzburg

Week 8: 8, 10 March
Tuesday Founders of the Global Optic, 3: Appadurai and the Glocal, The Politics of Culture
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appadurai


• Précis 2 due: Any essay

March 12–20 Spring break.

Week 9: 22, 24 March
Tuesday Global Artistic Links
Thursday    Reading the Imperial
*Pick one of the following:*
Levenson, ed., *Circa 1492* (passim; on reserve in dept. grad lab; use in room)
••Take one part of the world, and read all the short essays to twll what kind of network it is.
Arens on the Holy Roman Empire
••Decide what kind of literacy is assumed in her analysis.

**Week 10: 29, 31 March**

**Tuesday    Thing Theory: Objects and Identities in the Global Marketplace**
••Research Plan and Abstract of final project due

**Thursday    Media and Globalization**

**Week 11: 5, 7 April**

**Tuesday    Founders of the Global Optic, 4: Saskia Sassen and the New Poltiics of the Global Political Subject.**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saskia_Sassen
Start on Sassen, *Territory, Authority, Rights*. 1-23, 277-423
••Many papers on her website; see bottom of wiki page

**Thursday    no class: instructor at MALCA**

**Week 12: 12, 14 April**

**Tuesday    Finish: Sassen, *Territory, Authority, Rights*. 1-23, 277-423**
**Case Study: McMeekin, *The Berlin-Baghdad Express*. 1-136**
••Précis 3 due: any essay

**Thursday    New Philosophies of the Global: Biopolitics**

**Week 13: 19, 21 April**

**Tuesday    New Philosophies of the Global: "Bare Life"**
Agamben, *Homo Sacer*, 1-86

**Thursday    New Philosophies of the Global: Other Cultural manifestations**

**Week 14: 26, 28 April**

**Tuesday**  
New Philosophies of the Global: Cosmopolitanism / Ethics  
Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Cosmopolitanism*, 101-135 (Chaps. 7 & 8).  

**Thursday**  
Final Presentations: 5-minute research overview (summarizing an area of globalization studies)

**Week 15: 3, 5 May**

**Tuesday**  
Final Presentations (continued)

**Thursday**  
Final Class

**FINAL PAPER DUE ON OFFICIAL EXAM DUE DATE:**

Saturday, May 14, 2:00 pm


Katherine Arens. HRE Readings. (on Website)


GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

CLASS AND CLASSROOMS:
Cell phones must be turned off in class; computers may be used only for note-taking or displaying class pdfs. If a student uses electronic devices for non-class related activities and creates a disturbance s/he will be asked to leave for the remainder of that class.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE
• Academic Assistance is provided by the UT Learning Center, in Jester Center, Room A332A. It offers help with college-level writing, reading, and learning strategies. It is free to all currently enrolled students.
• See: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/assistive/policy.html> for requesting help you need in using the main library (PCL) or the Fine Arts Library (for films).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact the Service for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. These letters must be given to your TAs to receive accommodations. See: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/index.php>.
SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS:
All requirements have been given to you in writing, in the package including this sheet. If you don't read it and miss something, it's not our problem. NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED; see the conditions for making up work for medical and other leaves are listed in the next section.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND OTHER ABSENCES
- Students can make up work missed because of a religious holiday as long as they provide the instructor with documentation at least one week before the holiday occurs.
- The same applies to official university obligations like Club or Varsity sports.
- Documentation from a physician is required for medical absence; arrangements for work to be made up must be made promptly, and in no case should the work be completed more than 2 weeks after the absence.
- Other absences (e.g. family events) must be arranged for at least TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE and missed work must be turned in at the NEXT CLASS SESSION upon return.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
Cheating and other forms of scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be reported to the Dean of Students. Cheating on tests or plagiarism on papers is an F for the assignment, with no makeup possible. If you engage in any form of scholastic dishonesty more than once, you will receive an automatic F for the course.
If you are unsure about the exact definition of scholastic dishonesty, you should consult the information about academic integrity produced by the Dean of Students Office: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php>.
Plagiarism means using words or ideas that are not your own without citing your sources and without indicating explicitly what you have taken from those sources. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, consult:
What does "citing your sources" mean? It means providing appropriate footnotes and bibliographic entries. See

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CHEATING:
The Student Judicial Services Website provides official definitions of plagiarism and cheating:
- Definitions of plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty, based on Section 11-802d of UT's Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities:
  http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php
- The University’s Standard of Academic Integrity and Student Honor Code (from Chapter 11 of the University’s Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities):
  http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php
- Consequences of scholastic dishonesty:
  http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_conseq.php
- Types of scholastic dishonesty: unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, and multiple submissions: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_whatis.php