

Course description

Comparative History of Empires in Modern and Contemporary Times

Course name, ECTS, quarter / semester, contact hours

Comparative History of Empires in Modern and Contemporary Times, 7 ECTS, 3-4 quarters, 84 contact hours.

Author of the course:

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Outline: What are empires? How does one define them? How do they rule over their numerous regions and people? Why should one study them and their population? How do they function, what challenges them and how do they fall? Leading students into the history of empires, this introductory course will provide them with knowledge of the latest methodologies and theories dealing with imperial history. Covering the comparative and entangled history of the British Empire, the Habsburg Empire, the German Empire, the Russian Empire (and the Soviet Union), the Ottoman Empire through World War II, the students will study them as elements of the world order and regimes of governing and constructing cultural and ethnic difference. Special attention will be paid to the history of institutions of imperial rule, imperial societies and their cohesion, ruptures, reforms and reproduction of imperial rule, the role of science in governing imperial space(s) and their everyday legal pluralism. The course concludes with the review and analysis of the afterlife and legacy of imperial formations.

Structure and content

	Topic	Hours
1	Introduction: why study empires?	4
2	Theoretical approaches to empires	20
3	Age of empires: empires compared and entangled	32
4	Empires vs. nations and nationalisms	18
5	The end and the afterlife of empires	10

Prerequisites: A survey course on modern European history, equivalent or a survey course on global history, equivalent and a survey course on Russian-Soviet history.

Assessment:

- a) First written assignment (20%);
- b) Midterm exam (20%);
- c) Second written assignment (20%);
- d) Written exam (40%).