

**PSCI 3105A**  
**IMPERIALISM**

Tuesday, 18:05 – 20:55

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Dr. Hakan Tunç  
Office: B646 Loeb  
Phone: 613-520-2600 x1598 (No voicemail)  
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**Course description**

This course is an introduction to imperialism and empires. We will focus on modern European empires by examining how they evolved, consolidated power and contracted. One of our main tasks will be to investigate the complexities of imperial control and the colonial relationship. Another main task will be to compare the strategies, practices and legacies of different empires.

We will also critically evaluate the recent claims about American “empire” in a comparative and historical context. Has the United States created a new, global empire? How does its current expansionist venture compare to past imperial enterprises? With European imperialism as a backdrop, we will study how American “empire” is similar to and differs from old colonial empires. Since we will study both the causes and the consequences of imperialism, the course ought to appeal to students of both international relations and developing countries.

**Readings**

There are two required books for the course:

- 1) Stephen Howe, *Empire: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2002)
- 2) David B. Abernethy, *The Dynamics of Global Dominance: European Overseas Empires 1415-1980* (Yale University Press, 2000)

Readings on American “empire”: These readings, mostly journal articles, are available on the WebCT course page in PDF and MS-Word formats.

## Evaluation

The final grade will be based on:

Class participation	10%	
In-class quizzes	20% (4 x 5%)	Unannounced
Term Paper	40%	November 30 (Last class meeting)
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled during the exam period (December 9-22)

**As per early feedback guidelines, one of the quizzes will be returned by February 5.**

### Class participation (10%)

Each class is a combination of lecture and discussion, so students are highly encouraged to ask questions and participate in the class discussions. It is necessary that you complete all reading assignments prior to coming to class so that you are fully prepared to discuss the assigned material. We will also discuss the video/movie screening following in-class screening. (No prior preparation is required for the screening). The grade for class participation will be determined by the quality and quantity of your comments and questions.

It is very important to attend class. Along with a number of obvious reasons why you should attend class, the lectures will cover material that is not addressed in the readings. Attendance is also important to take unannounced quizzes (see below).

### In-class quizzes (4 quizzes, 5 % or 5 points per quiz)

You will write four quizzes which will not be announced in advance. Each of these quizzes will start at the beginning of the class (around 6:10 pm). Each quiz will have one question, which will be based on the assigned course readings for that week. You will write a very short essay-type answer (max. 500 words) in 20 minutes. If you do not know the answer, submit a piece of paper with your name on it because you will at least receive credit of 1 point (out of 5 points). No aids of any kind (e.g. books) will be permitted during the quiz.

There are no make-up quizzes. ONLY those with a medical note or documentation of family emergency will be given the chance to make up for a missed quiz by writing a short review of an article on imperialism that was published in an academic journal of Political Science or History. (The article has to be outside the required readings for the course). The review is expected to be around 1,000 words, should both summarize and critically evaluate the main argument(s) of the article, and has to be submitted one week after the student is notified that his/her documentation is approved by the instructor. Submissions after one week will not be accepted and the student will not receive any credit for that particular quiz.

### Term paper (40 %, due November 30)

Your paper will be on a particular topic in regard to imperialism. A list of topics/questions for the paper is posted on WebCT. You will choose one of the topics for your paper from the list. Choosing your own topic outside the list is also acceptable, but *you have to obtain my approval for the topic of your choice*. To obtain my approval, you need to present a clear and feasible topic/question following extensive research. The last date to obtain my approval is October 29.

Your term paper should be about 3000 words (excluding the words in endnotes/footnotes and bibliography), printed in 12 pt font on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, in justified double-spaced text with one inch margins, accompanied by a word count. Pages must be numbered. E-mail or faxed papers will not be accepted.

The paper should draw on materials beyond the required course readings and combine theory, facts, analysis and argumentation. A more detailed description of the paper assignment will be provided during the term.

Papers are due in class on **November 30**. Students submitting late papers without legitimate reasons will be penalized 7% per day (including weekends) or 3 points (out of 40). Papers submitted after December 6 will not be accepted. The departmental drop box cut off time is 4:00pm. Any assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

There will be no extensions for paper submissions except under extraordinary circumstances (the validity of which is to be determined by the instructor).

### Final Exam (30 %, exam period)

The final exam will test your knowledge of all the major theories, ideas, concepts and details of empires and imperialism that we will have studied throughout the term. The exam is comprehensive and will include all of the material outlined in the syllabus. You are responsible for all of the material that has been assigned in the course outline and discussed in the lectures. The exam will consist of essay questions. More information about the final exam will be provided during the last class meeting on November 30th.

The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (December 9 – 22).

**Return of term work:** Students will receive their marks for the quizzes within a week. Term papers will be returned to you at the end of the final exam in the exam hall.

**WebCT:** This course will rely heavily on the WebCT Course Management System. Course materials, including the course outline, required journal articles, announcements and reminders of deadlines will be posted on WebCT. I also prefer WebCT for e-mail correspondence with students. Please ensure that you have access to WebCT and consult it regularly. Students are responsible for reading all information distributed to them through the WebCT course page.

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

**Week 1 (September 14)      Course introduction**

**Week 2 (September 21)      Conceptual and definitional issues**

Howe, Introduction & chapter 1  
Abernethy, chapters 1 & 2

**Week 3 (September 28)      Historical overview**

Abernethy, chapters 3,4, 5 & 6

In-class video documentary: “Wrong Empire” (From *A History of Britain*. BBC Production. Written and Presented by Simon Schama. 2000)

**Week 4 (October 5)            Imperial expansion (I)**

Howe, ch.2  
Abernethy, chs. 8 & 9

**Week 5 (October 12)        Imperial expansion (II)**

Howe, ch.3  
Abernethy, chs. 10 & 11

**Week 6 (October 19)        Consolidating power**

Abernethy, chs. 12 & 13

In-class video documentary: “Heaven’s Breed” (Parts from *Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World*. Presented by Niall Ferguson. 2003)

**Week 7 (October 26)        Imperial contraction**

Howe, ch.4  
Abernethy, chs. 7, 14 & 15

**Week 8 (November 2)        Consequences of imperialism**

Howe, ch.5  
Abernethy, chs. 16 & 17

**Week 9 (November 9)            The nature of American “empire”**

Michael Cox, “Empire by denial: the strange case of the United States,” *International Affairs* 81, no. 1 (2005): 15-30.

Niall Ferguson, “The Empire Slinks Back,” *New York Times* (Sunday Magazine) April 27, 2003.

Robert Kagan, “The Benevolent Empire,” *Foreign Policy* no. 111 (1998): 24-35.

In class video: *Commanding Heights: American Empire*. (Debate between Niall Ferguson and Ivan Iland. Hoover Institution, Stanford University. September 17, 2008.  
URL: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx1A5P43L04](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx1A5P43L04))

**Week 10 (November 16)            America’s “Imperial” Strategies**

John Ikenberry, “America's Imperial Ambition” *Foreign Affairs* (Sept-Oct 2002): 44-60.

Edward Rhodes, “The Imperial Logic of Bush’s Liberal Agenda,” *Survival* 45, no.1 (Spring 2003): 131-154.

Charles Krauthammer, “The Unipolar Moment Revisited,” *National Interest*, no. 70, (Winter 2002/03): 5-17.

**Week 11 (November 23)            Prospects of “American empire”**

Michael Mandelbaum, “David’s Friend Goliath,” *Foreign Policy* (Jan/Feb 2006): 50-56.

Robert J. Lieber, “Falling Upwards: Declinism, The Box Set,” *World Affairs* (Summer 2008)  
Available at <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/2008%20-%20Summer/full-Lieber.html>

Keir A. Lieber and Gerard Alexander, “Waiting for Balancing,” *International Security*, vol. 30, no. 1 (Summer 2005): 109-139.

In-class video documentary: *The World Without US: What Would Happen Should America Withdraw Its Military From Around the World* (Deep Waters Production. 2008)

**Week 13 (November 30)            Conclusion, course overview, and final exam review**

TERM PAPERS DUE! BRING YOUR COPY TO CLASS.

## Academic Accommodations

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 for April examinations**.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.