

**History 5336.01 Syllabus**  
**Topics in History of Pre-Modern Europe: “Empires in World History”**  
**CRN: 23829**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Class Location: Online**  
**Semester: Spring 2018**

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Office Hours: T–Th 2:00pm–3:00pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This graduate seminar on “Empires in World History” will explore the role of empires in early modern world history. It will focus on the experience and interactions of empires in the time from 1400 to 1800. This seminar aims to make students aware of the events, strategies, and policies that determined the ability of the empires of the early modern period to respond to challenges. Military as well as social and economic developments were important and thus will receive attention in discussions of success and failure of the empires.

This course aims to provide an analytical as well as a rounded view of empires in the early modern world. During this course, the students will analyze empires and their dynamics broadly over space and time; explore the relationship between metropolis/center and colony/periphery; and consider the interaction among empires as well as between empires and states.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will strengthen their ability to analyze and synthesize seven monographs to assess the importance of empires in the early modern world.
2. Compose book reviews that identify and characterize the important shifts in the historiography of the early modern empires.
3. Students will improve their ability to evaluate secondary literature critically and write analytically about the past through class assignments.
4. This class aims to broaden students’ abilities to construct and defend sustained arguments in written form.
5. Students will refine their historiographical and bibliographical skills.

### **REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS**

Casale, Giancarlo. *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Elliott, J.H. *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Faruqui, Munis. *The Princes of the Mughal Empire, 1504–1719*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Khodarkovsky, Michael. *Russia's Steppe Frontier: The Making of a Colonial Empire, 1500-1800*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004.

McNeill, J.R. and McNeill, William H. *The Human Web: A Bird's-eye View of World History*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2003.\*

Newitt, Malyn. *Portugal in European and World History*. London, UK: Reaktion Books, 2009.

Pritchard, James S. *In Search of Empire: The French in the Americas, 1670-1730*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

\* McNeill, J.R. and McNeill, William H. *The Human Web: A Bird's-eye View of World History* can be considered the course textbook, as it covers all parts of this class and has a thorough annotated bibliography.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**Book Reviews:** There will be seven opportunities to write a 3-page (double-space, 12 pt. font size) long book review during the course, you **must write 4 of these reviews**. There are 7 assigned books to read and discuss; this means you **must** submit a review for any of 4 of the 7 books. The books to be reviewed are assigned, required readings for this course. In other words, you do not need to do any extra reading to write these reviews. Each book review will conform to the rules of spelling and grammar. **The book reviews are due by Saturday of each week at 11:59pm through Turnitin Assignment. Failure to complete this assignment on time will result in failure from the class.**

You can find the submission links for the book reviews under the “Phase 1” tab on the blackboard.

**Discussion Forums:** There will be **seven discussion forums** via the classroom online ‘blackboard’ in which participation is **required**. Each student will make one blog post (ca. 300 words) as well as respond to two additional postings (ca. 150 words each). The ‘forum week’ begins on Sunday morning at 12:00am of the assigned weeks and ends the following Saturday at 11:59pm. **The original blog posts are due by Wednesday** of each week at 11:59pm, and the two responses are due by Saturday at 11:59pm. Forum topics will be picked by the student and can include questions, comments, or insights on the given week’s readings. The purpose of the blog is to create a discussion about the week’s readings and to allow Instructor and Student interaction. Forum assessment will be based upon the quality of the student’s engagement with the week’s assigned reading. Students **MUST complete all**

seven of the discussion forums to pass the course. **Failure to complete this assignment on time will result in failure from the class.**

You can find the discussion forum links under the “Phase 1” tab on the blackboard.

**Final Paper:** The final writing assignment for the semester will involve writing one 15-page final essay. In this final paper, not to exceed 15 (double-space, 12 pt. font size) pages, compare and contrast two of the empires we have read using one criterion for comparison. You are free to choose the criterion, but your selection should help illustrate how these empires were similar and/or different from each other. Please note that we are not interested in an empire-by-empire description. Rather, we want to think of ways to compare and contrast these empires. In addition to the required readings, you should use at least 10 additional scholarly articles or books written post 1990 (5 per empire). You can reach these articles through the Newton Gresham Library website. You will access JSTOR through the library website which will allow you to browse through hundreds of scholarly journals to find articles of interest to you. An example of a scholarly history journal would be *The American Historical Review*. You must ask my permission first to be able to use any article you are planning to use for your final paper. **Final Papers are due by May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm via the “Turnitin Assignment” on our course website. Failure to complete this assignment on time will result in failure from the class.**

You can find the submission links for the final papers under the “Phase 3” tab on the blackboard.

**Proposal and Bibliography for the “Final Paper”:** All students must submit their two-page (double spaced, typed) proposal and a separate bibliography for their final paper by the end of the Phase 2. **Your proposal and bibliography are due by April 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm via the “Turnitin Assignment” on our course website.** Your proposal should clearly state what are your research questions and what is the main argument of your paper. **Failure to complete this assignment on time will result in failure from the class.**

You can find the submission links for the final papers under the “Phase 2” tab on the blackboard.

**Style and Format:** The book reviews, introduction, and final paper must be foot noted using the Chicago style manuals. The final paper and the book reviews must include a title page and bibliography, which will not count toward the word limit. Students have +/- 10% of the stated word limit to complete their essays. Writing assignments must be completed in Times New Roman font size 12, on standard letter sized paper (8.5”x11”), with 1-inch margins, and double-spaced. Failure to meet these criteria will result in a **10% grade reduction per infraction.**

**Video/Live Appointments:** Anytime during the semester, students can set up appointments with the professor to discuss any questions with regard to the class, book reviews or the final paper. These can be done in person or via video chat (Skype or Google Hangout).

**Calculating your final score:**

Assignment	Individual Point Value	Total
Book reviews (x4)	10	40
Online Discussion Forum (x7)	5	35
Final Paper	20	20
Proposal and Bibliography	5	5
Grand Total		100

**Grading:**

A = 90 - 100 points

B = 80 - 89 points

C = 70 - 79 points

D = 60 - 69 points

F = 59 points or below

**COMMUNICATION POLICY**

As this is an online class, communication is a course priority. Please type '5336.01' in the subject line of your emails to help quickly identify your message as important. (*Emails written after 5pm will be answered the following day*). All email correspondence will take place via SHSU email accounts only, as FERPA (Federal Education Rights Privacy Act) regulations require that communication and grades are kept confidential. Live communication with the instructor is available via Skype to students not physically located at or near SHSU. 'On-site' students can visit the instructor during office hours or set up meeting times via email in order to discuss course work.

**\*\*Note\*\*:** Some days see more email arrive in my 'inbox' than I can possibly answer. During those days I will try to get to class email first, but inevitably some of my duties take priority. If your message is urgent, please mark it as such, so I can give it the necessary attention.

**UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT:**

<https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate

disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

#### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

#### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>

#### **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### **Course Schedule Overview**

#### **Phase 1: 17 January–10 March**

**Week 1 (17–27 January):** Empires in World History

McNeill and McNeill, *The Human Web*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 9.

**Week 2 (28 January–3 February):** Mughal Empire in India

Faruqui, *The Princes of the Mughal Empire, 1504–1719*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 7.

**Week 3 (4–10 February):** The Ottoman Empire

Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 7.

**Week 4 (11–17 February):** First European Maritime Empire: Portugal in World History

Newitt, *Portugal in European and World History*, Introduction & chapters 3 through 9.

**Week 5 (18–24 February):** Empires of the Atlantic World

Elliott, *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 8.

**Week 6 (25 February–3 March):** The French Empire in the Americas

Pritchard, *In Search of Empire*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 9.

**Week 7 (4–10 March):** Empire of the Steppes: Russian Empire

Khodarkovsky, *Russia's Steppe Frontier*, Introduction & chapters 1 through 5.

**Spring Break: 11 March–17 March**

#### **Phase 2: 18 March–7 April**

By the end of the Phase 2 (April 7), students must submit the proposal and a bibliography for their final paper.

**Proposal and bibliography for the “Final Paper” are due by April 7, 11:59pm through Turnitin Assignment.**

#### **Phase 3: 8 April–4 May**

**Research and Writing: Final Papers are due by May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm through Turnitin Assignment.**