HIS106 Imperialism  
CUNY John Jay College  
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Course Description:
This First Year Seminar examines the role of empires and imperialism in the making of the modern world. Our topics will include the causes and dynamics of conquest, the nature of domination and resistance, the impact of colonial rule in Africa and the Middle East, Cold War relations between the superpowers and the Third World, the many faces of neo-colonialism, debates about “cultural imperialism,” interventionism and the War on Terror, and the connection between past empires and contemporary disparities of wealth and power between the West and the non-West.

This course fulfills the “Justice and the Individual” General Education requirement.

Course Objectives:
1. Describe one’s own relationship to significant issues of justice by thinking, speaking, and writing about imperialism and its many forms
2. Develop your ability to construct and evaluate historical arguments through evidence-based inquiry
3. Assess the effectiveness of your role in collaborations with people of diverse backgrounds
4. Demonstrative effective planning and reflection
5. Explore college resources and groups that support your academic goals and personal growth

Requirements:
Your grade in this course will reflect the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Short Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1 (Spence)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Essay 2 (Oyono)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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Though we will review upcoming assignments each session, it is essential that you read this syllabus before each class. Think about it as your guide to the course—the syllabus tells you what we are doing this week, and it lets you know what is coming next. This course will involve a lot of reading and writing, so it is essential that you keep up with the work and plan your schedule accordingly. If you need another copy of the syllabus, it is available on Blackboard.
Texts:

There are also additional readings listed in the syllabus—you can find these on Blackboard. All the above books are on reserve in the library, but it is HIGHLY recommended that you buy your own copies. You can find very affordable used books online at [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com), [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com), [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com), or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). In addition, you can rent textbooks through the bookstore and [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com).

Review Quizzes:
In order to succeed in this course, it is essential that you complete the assigned readings and come to class prepared to talk about them. For this reason, one class each week will begin with a review quiz. These quizzes will be “open note,” which means you can use your own notes (but not the readings) to answer the quiz. In addition, I will occasionally assign short writing assignments to be completed as homework. For these quizzes and assignments, you can write informally, using whatever words come easiest to you—your grade will not consider spelling or grammar, only the strength of your arguments and use of evidence. Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Exam:
The comprehensive exam will consist of an identification section and an essay. You will receive a review guide that includes all the terms and essay questions that will appear on the exam.

Papers:
You will write two short essays this semester. You can find the essay prompts on Blackboard, but we will discuss each paper in detail before it is due. Each of the essays must be 750 words. Please note that no late assignments will be accepted. You MUST turn in your papers using Blackboard—do not bring printed copies of your paper to class, and please do not email your paper to me.

Research Presentation:
During the last week of the semester, you will present a seven to ten minute report to the class. In it, you will build upon what you have learned by exploring how one of our course themes relates to your own interests, using newspaper articles to support your discussion. You will be graded on your presentation and the questions that you ask of other presenters. We’ll talk more about this later.

Group Projects:
Throughout this semester you will work on several projects as part of a small group. Some of these projects will be ungraded, and some will be graded. Towards the end of the semester, there will be two special in-class group projects that will determine ten percent of your final grade. We will talk more about these projects and group work in general throughout the semester.

Field Trip:
As part of this course, you will go on a field trip to the African Burial Ground, in Lower Manhattan. We will talk more about this trip as it approaches, but please note that it is a required component of the course.
Attendance Policy:
Please come to class on time, with your cell phone turned off. There are no make-ups for missed assignments or quizzes, and more than four absences will seriously affect your grade in the course.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance:
Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, I must receive written verification of your eligibility from OAS, which is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is your responsibility to initiate contact with OAS and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to me.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:
Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writings as your own. It is a serious form of academic dishonesty. Here are some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying another person’s actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source
- Presenting another person’s ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the sources
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments
- Submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the Internet without citing the source, and “cutting and pasting” from various sources without proper attribution.

In order to ensure that you clearly understand what plagiarism is, you MUST complete a graded online tutorial and quiz through Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard’s SafeAssign software automatically checks all your writing for plagiarism, and that a single act of plagiarism—or any other form of academic dishonesty—can result in a failing grade for the assignment or the entire course. Please see me if you have any questions about this.

Office Hours:
I have listed my office hours at the top of the syllabus—please come visit if you have any questions about course requirements, the things we talk about in class, the readings and assignments, study strategies, John Jay, special concerns, letters of recommendation, graduate school, or anything else.

Grades:
In accordance with CUNY policy, your grade in this course will reflect the following scale:

- A Excellent (90-100%)
- B Good (80-89%)
- C Satisfactory (70-79%)
- D Passing (60-69%)
- F Failure/Unsuccessful Completion of the Course (less than 59%)

What I Expect From You and What You Can Expect from Me:
This syllabus spells out exactly what this course requires. In order for you to get the most out of the semester, I expect you to review this syllabus on a regular basis, complete the readings and assignments punctually, check your John Jay email regularly, come to class ready to learn, and participate thoughtfully and respectfully in our discussions. In turn, I will be clear about my expectations, avoid wasting your time or giving you busy work that serves no purpose, answer all
your questions about the requirements and material, grade your work fairly and promptly, and provide you with everything that you need to succeed.

Course Schedule

August 31
Welcome and Introductions

September 2
A Case Study
Film: Firestone and the Warlord

September 7
NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 9
What is Imperialism?

Part I: Gunpowder Empires and Merchant Capitalism, 1400-1750

September 10 (WE HAVE CLASS ON A THURSDAY)
The Big Picture ca. 1400
ONLINE PLAGIARISM QUIZ DUE BEFORE CLASS

September 14
NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 16
The Premodern World Economy
GROUP WORK IN CLASS: PREMODERN TRADE

September 21
African and Asian Land Empires
GROUP FOCUS QUESTIONS ON WORLD SYSTEM DUE IN CLASS

September 23
NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

September 28
European Maritime Empires
September 30
Merchant Capitalism: The Atlantic Slave Trade

October 5
NO CLASS: FIELD TRIP
This week, you should visit the African Burial Ground National Monument, located at 290 Broadway. You must go to Visitor’s Center as well as the Memorial, so check the hours online and plan your visit accordingly. Admission is free.
Reading: Spence, 1-44.

October 7
Merchant Capitalism: The East India Companies
Reading: Spence, 44-95.

October 12
NO CLASS: COLLEGE CLOSED

October 14
Spence Discussion
Reading: Spence, 95-135.
PAPER 1 DRAFT DUE IN CLASS FOR PEER REVIEW

October 15
PAPER 1 DUE BY END OF DAY

Part II: New Imperialism, 1798-1960s

October 19
What is New Imperialism?
IN CLASS: PLANNING THE REST OF THE SEMESTER

October 21
The Scramble for Africa
GROUP WORK IN CLASS: IDENTIFYING HISTORICAL CAUSES

October 26
The Mandate System in the Middle East

October 28
The Colonial Order
Reading: Begin Oyono.
November 2
Oyono Discussion
Reading: Finish Oyono.
PAPER 2 DRAFT DUE IN CLASS FOR PEER REVIEW

November 4
Nationalism and Decolonization in Africa and Asia
PAPER 2 DUE

November 9
Colonial Legacies?
Reading: Each member of your group should read one of the following:
GRADED GROUP PROJECT IN CLASS

Part III: Postcolonialism and Neocolonialism, 1941-2015

November 11
The Cold War: the Superpowers and the Third World
Reading: Using the Oxford Reference and the Gale Virtual Reference Library (both available through the John Jay College website), find and read an article on “The Cold War” and another on “The Third World.” You must read one article from each database, and you must copy down the full bibliographic reference for each article in your notes. Bonus: Read an article by Fred Halliday on one of these topics.

November 16
What is Neocolonialism?
FOCUS QUESTIONS ON NEOCOLONIALISM DUE

November 18
Cultural Imperialism and Indigenous Rights
Film: Between Two Worlds
Reading: Begin Operation Ajax

November 23
Interventionism: The United States and Iran
Reading: Finish Operation Ajax
GRADED GROUP PROJECT IN CLASS

November 25
Globalization and the New World Order
Part IV: Making Connections

November 30
The Past and the Future

December 2, 7, and 9
Research Presentations

December 14
Review Session

Final Exam date TBA