

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**Academic School / Department:** Humanities & Social Sciences

**Programme:** International History

**FHEQ Level:** 6

**Course Title:** Cultures of Empire

**Course Code:** HIST 6101

**Total Hours:** 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning Hours: 100

**Credit** 16 UK CATS credits

8 ECTS credits

4 UK credits

**Course Description:**

This course examines the causes and consequences of empires from a broad range of comparative and international perspectives, including the economic, political, social, and (by way of postcolonial theory) the cultural. It investigates why empires are significant, who are the empire-makers, how and why empires rise and fall, whether they are good or bad, how they are defined, and how they can be resisted. Where possible the course will make use of some of the excellent museums and collections within London.

**Prerequisites:**

70 Credits

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To demonstrate the complexities and ambiguities of empire across time and space
- To provide an understanding of some key theoretical approaches to studying empires and imperialism
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

**Programme Outcomes:**

6AI; 6AIII; 6BI; 6CII; 6DII

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic insight into, and sophisticated understanding of, the cultural, economic, geographical, political and social dimensions of empire.
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key scholars, texts and debates in imperial and postcolonial theory.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of how the ability to make comparisons and connections about empire across a broad geographical and temporal range interacts with questions of gender and ethnicity.
- Demonstrates the systematic ability to gather, organise and deploy highly complex ideas, evidence and information.
- Demonstrates autonomy in locating their own normative views and cultural commitments through research of empire and imperialism.

**Indicative Content:**

- The significance of empires
- Are empires good or bad?
- Defining empire, imperialism & colonialism
- Why & how empires are formed: security, economics and ideology
- Responding to empire: resistance and collaboration
- Theorizing empire: postcolonialism and its problems
- Types of empires: ancient, Islamic, European & US
- Post-imperialism, decolonisation, and globalisation

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Bush, B. (2006) *Imperialism and Postcolonialism*. Harlow: Pearson.
- Howe, S. (2002) *Empire: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: OUP.
- Kumar, K. (2020) *Empires: A Historical and Political Sociology*. London: Polity.
- Phillips, A. and Sharman, J.C. (2022) *Outsourcing Empire: How Company-States Made the Modern World*. Princeton University Press.
- Said, E. (1979) *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage.
- Streets-Salter, H. & Getz, T. R. (2016) *Empires and Colonies in the Modern World: A Global Perspective*. Oxford. OUP.
- Veevers, D. (2024) *The Great Defiance: How the World Took on the British Empire*. Penguin.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	