



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Cultural Sciences

4KP400 Imperialismen och den moderna världens framväxt, 7,5  
högskolepoäng

Imperialism and the Making of the Modern World, 7.5 credits

### **Main field of study**

History, Colonial and postcolonial studies

### **Subject Group**

Cultural Studies

### **Level of classification**

Second Level

### **Progression**

A1N

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2019-09-18

Revised 2020-04-21 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised examination and literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and 90 credits in the humanities or social sciences (including an independent project of at least 15 credits). English B/English 6 or the equivalent

## Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- describe the historiography of the main trends in imperialism from the mid-15th century until today,
- critically evaluate the main conditions, causes and motives of colonialism and imperialism in various historical contexts,
- identify and explain strengths and weaknesses in some theories on imperialism and colonialism and discuss these in relation to their historiographic contexts,
- assess academic and other accounts of imperialism in relation to relevant theories, historic empirical material and contemporary sources.

## Content

In this course students develop an understanding of the causes and consequences of imperialism and colonialism from the mid-15th century until today, focusing on the period of increasing European expansion ca 1750–1914. The course specifically analyses the roles of imperial dominance and opposition in the making of the modern world, as well as its influence on contemporary society. Alternative views on the causes and effects of

imperialism and colonialism are investigated from long-term historical, global and comparative perspectives. Some themes are discussed, including different types of dominance, inequality, violence, boundaries, gender, race and civilisation. The course explores contemporary conflicts on imperial and colonial heritage, and current research debates.

### Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of seminars.

### Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The course is examined continuously through written assignments and oral presentations in seminars and a final paper. If a student misses or fails a seminar, the examiner may allow the student to supplement this through a written assignment. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

If the university has decided that a student has the right to special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may offer an adapted test or allow the student to conduct the test in an alternative form.

### Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Burbank, J. & Cooper, F. (latest edition). *Empires in world history: power and the politics of difference*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press (460 p.).

Majumdar, Rochona. (latest edition). *Writing postcolonial history*. London: Bloomsbury Academic (179 s).

Mommsen, Wolfgang J. (latest edition), *Theories of imperialism*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press (180 s).

Additional literature in accordance with instructions from the teacher (ca 400 p.).

One individually chosen book, to be chosen in dialogue with the teacher (ca 300 p.).  
Total ca 1500 p.

### Recommended literature

Conklin, A. L. & Fletcher, I. C. (eds) (latest edition). *European imperialism, 1830-1930: climax and contradiction*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Cooper, F. (latest edition). *Colonialism in question: theory, knowledge, history*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Hämäläinen, P. (latest edition). *The Comanche empire*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Howe, S. (red.) (latest edition). *The new imperial histories reader*. London: Routledge.

Lieven, D. (latest edition). *Empire: the Russian empire and its rivals*. London: John Murray.

Osterhammel, J. (latest edition). *The transformation of the world: a global history of the nineteenth century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Said, E.W. (latest edition). *Culture and imperialism*. London: Vintage.

Smith, Bonnie G. (latest edition). *Modern empires: a reader*. New York: Oxford University Press.