



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Cultural Sciences

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

4KP400 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 2023-06-14 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Revised literature.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

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 6 or the equivalent

Objectives

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

- describe the history 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 c. 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 lectures and 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.).

Cederlöf, G. & Sivaramakrishnan, K. (eds). 2014. *Ecological Nationalisms: Nature, Livelihoods and Identities in South Asia*, Delhi: Permanent Black; Seattle: University of Washington Press. (376 s.)

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

Mundy, Barbara E. *The Death of Aztec Tenochtitlan, the Life of Mexico City*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015, pp. 72-98. (27 pp.)

Smith, Bonnie G. (senaste upplaga). *Modern empires: a reader*. New York: Oxford University Press. (ca. 150 pp.)

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

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

Total ca 1500 pp.

Recommended literature

Conklin, A. L. & Fletcher, I. C. (eds) (latest edition). *European imperialism, 1830-1930: Climax and contradiction*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (234 pp.)

Cooper, F. (latest edition). *Colonialism in question: theory, knowledge, history*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (339 pp.)

Howe, S. (red.) (latest edition). *The new imperial histories reader*. London: Routledge. (480 pp.)

Mommsen, Wolfgang J. (latest edition), *Theories of Imperialism*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (190 pp.)

Mundy, B.E. 2015. *The Death of Aztec Tenochtitlan, the Life of Mexico City*. (Austin: University of Texas Press. (256 pp.)

Said, E.W. (latest edition). *Culture and imperialism*. London: Vintage. (380 pp.)

Stoler, A.L. (latest edition), *Duress: Imperial Durabilities in Our Times*. Durham: Duke University Press. (448 pp.)