

Heidelberg University

Spring 2009

HNR 103-14A (3 credits) and 14B (4 credits)

Empires

Th 6-9 PM

Aigler, Room 4

Instructor: Dr. Marc O'Reilly

Office Hours: M-W-F 1-2 PM, T-Th 4-5 PM, and on Appointment

Office: Campus Center, Room 307

Mail Boxes: Aigler, Room A100 or Office of Int'l & Multicultural Programs @ Campus Center

E-Mail: moreilly@heidelberg.edu

Web: <http://www.heidelberg.edu/~moreilly>

Phone # 419.448.2208

Course Content

This Scholar Honors seminar spotlights empires, an enduring form of political, economic, military, social, and cultural organization. Ancient and modern “Western” empires are featured, especially the Athenian, Spartan, Macedonian, Roman, Byzantine, Florentine, Venetian, Holy Roman, Spanish, French, Russian, British, and American empires. Non-Western examples (i.e., the Egyptian, Persian, and Islamic empires) will also be studied. Definitions and taxonomies of empire will be discussed at length as will important events and features of various empires (i.e., political and economic structures, methods of expansion and conquest, colonization techniques, social and cultural aspects of imperialism, legacies of decolonization, etc.). Classic works (including novels and films) will be used in this course so that students can understand the impact of empires over a period of centuries and in various contexts -- political, cultural, and otherwise. Consistent with the Scholar theme of the seminar, this course examines how scholars study and categorize empires, assess their political, economic, military, social, and cultural impact, and judge their historical significance as well as their continued relevance in the 21st century.

February 28-March 10, 2009, students enrolled in HNR 103-14B will travel to France and Italy for a visit that will allow them to familiarize themselves with the cultural manifestations of four empires – Roman, Papal, Florentine, and Venetian. Hallmarks of those empires (e.g., the Colosseum, St. Peter’s Basilica, the Duomo, and St. Mark’s Square) serve as reminders of once powerful imperial civilizations that continue to shape contemporary world politics -- witness the regular comparisons between the United States and Ancient Rome.

Required Readings (Books Available at the Heidelberg Bookstore)

- Stephen Howe, *Empire: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (New York: Penguin, 1981).
- Niall Ferguson, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (New York: Basic Books, 2004).
- Anthony Pagden, *Peoples and Empires: A Short History of European Migration, Exploration, and Conquest, From Greece to the Present* (New York: The Modern Library, 2003).
- Christopher Layne & Bradley A. Thayer, *American Empire: A Debate* (New York: Routledge, 2007).
- Students will also be required to read photocopied articles and other materials throughout the semester. I will distribute those readings in class.

Course Requirements for HNR 103-14A

Essays: Students will write two (2) essays. In each 5-7 page (double-spaced) review essay, a student will summarize, analyze, and comment upon one theme or issue read for and discussed in class. Each essay will be due one (1) week after the class discussion of the theme or issue you have selected. **OBJECTIVES:** The essays allow you to grasp the essentials and nuances of a theme or issue and understand them in a more thoughtful, sophisticated way.

Paper or Portfolio: Students must turn in either a 12-15 page (double-spaced) analytical paper on some aspect(s) of empire(s) or some kind of portfolio, which can include drawings, paintings, poems, short stories, photographs, or whatever you deem appropriate, on some aspect(s) of empire(s). Students must turn in a one (1) page (single-spaced) proposal of their work on February 26. The paper or portfolio will be due May 3. **OBJECTIVES:** The paper or portfolio allows you to examine an issue of personal interest, develop expertise on a topic, and augment and improve your intellectual and creative skills. **PROPOSAL DUE: FEBRUARY 26; PAPER/PORTFOLIO DUE: MAY 3.**

Participation: Students must attend class regularly (I will keep track of your attendance), provide input (in the form of questions and answers) during seminar, respect classmates and the instructor, and conduct themselves in a mature and responsible way. **OBJECTIVES:** Improve your oratorical, persuasion, and listening skills and recognize the importance of proper comportment and etiquette in the classroom.

Distribution of Grades

Essays	40%
Paper or Portfolio	50%
Participation	10%

Late review essays and papers/portfolios will be docked one grade (A to A-, for example) for every day past the deadline. Also note that any student guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive an F (i.e., 0) for the assignment and can be dismissed from Heidelberg University.

Course Requirements for HNR 103-14B

Essays: Students will write two (2) essays. In each 5-7 page (double-spaced) review essay, a student will summarize, analyze, and comment upon one theme or issue read for and discussed in class. Each essay will be due one (1) week after the class discussion of the theme or issue you have selected. **OBJECTIVES:** The essays allow you to grasp the essentials and nuances of a theme or issue and understand them in a more thoughtful, sophisticated way.

Paper or Portfolio: Students must turn in either a 12-15 page (double-spaced) analytical paper on some aspect(s) of empire(s) or some kind of portfolio, which can include drawings, paintings, poems, short stories, photographs, or whatever you deem appropriate, on some aspect(s) of empire(s). Students must turn in a one (1) page (single-spaced) proposal of their work on February 26. The paper or portfolio will be due May 3. **OBJECTIVES:** The paper or portfolio allows you to examine an issue of personal interest, develop expertise on a topic, and augment and improve your intellectual and creative skills. **PROPOSAL DUE: FEBRUARY 26; PAPER/PORTFOLIO DUE: MAY 3.**

Participation: Students must attend class regularly (I will keep track of each student's attendance), provide input (in the form of questions and answers) during seminar, respect classmates and the instructor, and conduct themselves in a mature and responsible way. **OBJECTIVES:** Improve your oratorical, persuasion, and listening skills and recognize the importance of proper comportment and etiquette in the classroom.

Journal: Each student must keep a journal during her/his trip to France and Italy. Each student will record her/his impressions and reflect on what she/he has experienced. **OBJECTIVES:** The journal allows you to gather useful information on a daily basis, document your visit to France and Italy, and better understand what you have learned during the semester. **JOURNAL DUE: MARCH 26.**

Distribution of Grades

Essays	40%
Paper or Portfolio	40%
Participation	10%
Journal	10%

Late essays, papers/portfolios, and journals will be docked one grade (A to A-, for example) for every day past the deadline. Also note that any student guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive an F (i.e., 0) for the assignment and can be dismissed from Heidelberg University.

Class Outline and Reading Assignments

WEEK 1: Introduction.

Video: *Egypt's Golden Empire* (PBS *Empires* Series).

WEEK 2: What Are Empires?

Reading: Howe, *Empire*.

Video: *The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization* (PBS *Empires* Series).

Film: *300*.

WEEK 3: The Persian Empire.

Readings: Sandra Mackey, *The Iranians* (Xerox); Amy Chua, *Day of Empire* (Xerox); and Marguerite Del Giudice, "Persia: Ancient Soul of Iran," *National Geographic* (Xerox).

Video: *Engineering an Empire: The Persians* (History Channel).

WEEK 4: The Greek Empires: Athens, Sparta, & Macedonia.

Readings: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Xerox); Victor Davis Hanson, *A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War* (Xerox); Russell Meiggs, *The Athenian Empire* (Xerox); Donald Kagan, *The Fall of the Athenian Empire* (Xerox); and Pagden, *Peoples and Empires*, ch. 1.

Video: *The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization* (PBS *Empires* Series).

WEEK 5: The Roman Empire, Part I.

Readings: Pagden, *Peoples and Empires*, ch. 2; Julius Caesar, *Conquest of Gaul* (Xerox); and Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, and Richard J.A. Talbert, *The Romans: From Village to Empire* (Xerox).

Video: *The Roman Empire in the First Century* (PBS *Empires* Series).

WEEK 6: The Roman Empire, Part II, & Byzantium.

Readings: Naphtali Lewis and Meyer Reinhold, eds., *Roman Civilization: The Empire* (Xerox); Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Xerox); Neil Faulkner, “Hadrian and the Limits of Empire,” *History Today* (Xerox); and G.W. Bowersock, “Brilliant, Beautiful & Byzantine,” *The New York Review of Books* (Xerox).

Guest: Rich Fremion, who will discuss and exhibit his Roman coin collection.

Video: *Engineering an Empire: Rome* (History Channel).

WEEK 7: Islamic Empires.

Readings: Efraim Karsh, *Islamic Imperialism* (Xerox); and Justin McCarthy, *The Ottoman Turks* (Xerox).

Video: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (PBS Empires Series).

WEEK 8: Florence & Venice.

Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*; and John Julius Norwich, *A History of Venice* (Xerox).

Videos: *The Medicis: Godfathers of the Renaissance* (PBS Empires Series); and *Engineering an Empire: Da Vinci's World* (History Channel).

PROPOSAL DUE: FEBRUARY 26

Last day to drop the course is February 27

SPRING BREAK: FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 15

TRIP TO FRANCE & ITALY: FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 10

WEEK 9: Europe's Empires.

Reading: Pagden, *Peoples and Empires*, chs. 3-11.

Video: *Engineering an Empire: Russia* (History Channel).

WEEK 10: The British Empire, Part I.

Reading: Ferguson, *Empire*.

Video: *Engineering an Empire: Britain: Blood and Steel* (History Channel).

JOURNAL DUE: MARCH 26

WEEK 11: The British Empire, Part II.

Reading: Ferguson, *Empire*.

Film: *Gunga Din* (1939).

Video: *Queen Victoria's Empire* (PBS *Empires* Series).

WEEK 12: No class (Dr. O'Reilly will be out of town).

EASTER BREAK: April 10-13

WEEK 13: The American Empire & Conclusion: After Empire?

Readings: Layne & Thayer, *American Empire*; Marc J. O'Reilly, *Unexceptional: America's Empire in the Persian Gulf, 1941-2007* (Xerox); Graham Greene, *The Quiet American* (Xerox); and Alejandro Colás, *Empire* (Xerox).

Film: *The Quiet American* (2003).

WEEK 14: No class (Dr. O'Reilly will be out of town).

PAPER/PORTFOLIO DUE: SUNDAY, MAY 3 @ 5 PM