

Eurasian Empires

WOH3931/EUH3931 Summer A 2021—MTWRF 12:30pm-1:45pm (online)



Instructor Information

Instructor

Ethan Williamson

Email

ethanjwilliamson@ufl.edu

Office Hours

Thursday 2:00-4:00pm. Please make an appointment for a time slot.

General Information

Description

This course explores some of the most prominent empires that united large portions of Eurasia throughout the premodern centuries (antiquity to approximately 1500). We will tackle such questions as: How did premodern empires work? What made them so successful, and why did they eventually disintegrate? What are the major narratives of empire, and what do they include and exclude? How and why did people connect, cooperate, and coerce to survive and shape the world around them? Imperial polities varied greatly over time and space, but shared many common practices that bound their peripheries to imperial cores. Not only did they build powerful connections within their territories, they facilitated interconnectivity across the known world through larger processes such as trade and migration. The roots of our globalized, modern world lie in the connections built in early Eurasian Empires.

Course Outcomes

Students who take this class will:

- Learn imperial narratives and practices that connected people across time and space.
- Be able to engage critically with both primary and secondary sources in history.
- Gain insight into how people, places, and events exist in context of global pasts.
- Have a broad understanding of Eurasian world history and the variety of historical skills necessary to think critically with the past.
- Improve their abilities to articulate ideas clearly and concisely through assignments, discussions, and readings.

Required Materials

Burbank, Jane and Frederick Cooper. *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.

All other readings will be provided on Canvas throughout the semester.

Assignments

Participation (60 points)

You will earn ten points a week through regular attendance of the daily classes and participation in group discussion sections. You will address discussion questions related to that week's lectures and reading in breakout groups, sharing your notes on a common group Google doc. If you need to miss class, please communicate with me. **Up to two excused absences will be permitted, after which your participation grade will be impacted.**

Reading Reflections (60 points)

Each week you will write a brief, 1-2 paragraph reflection over the readings and content you covered in the unit. **They are due at 12:00pm before class on discussion days.** After identifying key arguments or takeaways, you may want to explain what you found most interesting or ask questions about material that you found confusing. I will read these address any common questions or concerns the following week.

Course Project: Comparative Research Paper (500 points total)

This paper is an opportunity for you to explore a subject of your choosing and develop your own thesis based on first-hand research. Identify a theme, concept, or imperial strategy and compare it between two imperial traditions covered in the course. For example, how did the conquests of the Arabs compare with those of the Mongols? Or, how did Roman and Chinese political leaders bind peripheral elites to the imperial core? Whatever you decide upon, present it as an integrated synthesis that effectively highlights the similarities and differences between the two empires. For reference, Look at how Burbank and Cooper discuss Rome and China. Each paper must have a clear thesis that is supported with evidence from primary and secondary source material.

The project will be broken into individual assignments throughout the six weeks. You will need to plan ahead to maximize your research and writing each week. Submit your assignments to Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date.

Part 1: Research Topic and First Annotated Bibliography (50 points)

In a brief paragraph, identify your topic and what theme you want to compare between two empires. Then construct your initial annotated bibliography for the first of your two empires. Include the bibliographic citations of at least two secondary sources and one primary source that you will utilize for your work. You can include the textbook, but it will not count as one of your secondary sources. Under each, write a brief annotation that summarizes the contents of the source and how it will be helpful for your potential argument. You will be graded on correct Chicago Style citation and the completeness of your annotations. **Due May 21st**

Part 2: Analysis Essay (150 points)

Analyze your theme or imperial strategy in the context of the first of your two empires in a 3-5 page essay. Develop a central claim and support it with evidence from your sources. How was this empire successful in the scope of your topic? What were its limitations? If you write this paper well, about half the work of your final paper will be accomplished. **Due May 28th**

Part 3: Thesis and Updated Annotated Bibliography (50 points)

Articulate your thesis that you plan to support with evidence from your sources. Update your bibliography with at least two more secondary sources and one more primary source for your second empire. You should have a total of at least four secondary (not including the textbook) and two main primary sources with complete annotations. **Due June 4th**

Part 4: Final Comparative Research Paper (250 points)

Synthesize your analysis of your theme for both empires into a cohesive 7-9 page research paper. You will not merely be pasting your work for your second empire onto your analysis essay, but instead integrating it all together to support your overarching thesis. This is the culmination of your work for the whole course. **Due June 18th**

Grading Scale

A	4.0	100-93	Exceptional	C	2.0	76-73	Serious errors
A-	3.67	92-90	Very good	C-	1.67	72-70	Near failing
B+	3.33	89-87	Better than good	D+	1.33	69-67	
B	3.0	86-83	Competent	D	1.0	66-63	
B-	2.67	82-80	Almost good	D-	0.67	62-60	
C+	2.33	79-77	Below standard	E	0.00	59-0	

Resources and References

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Writing Studio

The University Writing Studio is located in Turlington 2215 and is available to all UF students. Free appointments can be made up to twice a week. They are currently offering online appointments. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> to learn more.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits plagiarism and defines it as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code, which can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>.

Students in Distress

For guidance during distressing situations, please contact U Matter We Care or the Dean of Students Office. They can help students navigate resources and academic procedures for personal, medical, and academic issues.

U Matter We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-2273 (CARE)

Dean of Students: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 3190 Radio Road, (352) 392-1575

Field and Fork Pantry: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>, located near McCarty B, 352-294-2208

Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, multiple locations, (352) 392-1161

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Introduction to Empire and Eurasia

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Tuesday May 11 th	Syllabus and Introduction	READ SYLLABUS AND ACQUIRE TEXTBOOK
Wednesday May 12 th	Workshop: Writing a Research Paper, Avoiding Plagiarism	Begin thinking about your research topic.
Thursday May 13 th	Lecture	
Friday May 14 th	Discussion and Online Map Scavenger Hunt	Reading Reflection
Readings	Text: Ch. 1, 1-22. Unit 1 File on Canvas	

Unit 2: The Roman Empire

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Monday May 17 th	Lecture	
Tuesday May 18 th	Lecture	
Wednesday May 19 th	Lecture	
Thursday May 20 th	Lecture	
Friday May 21 st	Discussion	Reading Reflection Course Project Part 1: Topic and Annotated Bibliography

Readings	Text: Ch. 2, 23-42 Unit 2 File on Canvas	
----------	---	--

Unit 3: China

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Monday May 24 th	Lecture	
Tuesday May 25 th	Lecture	
Wednesday May 26 th	Lecture	
Thursday May 27 th	Lecture	
Friday May 28 th	Discussion	Reading Reflection Course Project Part 2: Analysis Essay
Readings	Text: Ch. 2, 42-49. Unit 3 File on Canvas	

Unit 4: Christian Successors to Rome

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Monday May 31 st	No Class: Memorial Day	
Tuesday June 1 st	Lecture	
Wednesday June 2 nd	Lecture	
Thursday June 3 rd	Lecture	
Friday June 4 th	Discussion	Reading Reflection Course Project Part 3: Thesis and Updated Annotated Bibliography
Readings	Text: Ch. 3, 61-92 Unit 4 File on Canvas	

Unit 5: Islamic Empires

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Monday June 7 th	Lecture	
Tuesday June 8 th	Lecture	
Wednesday June 9 th	Lecture	
Thursday June 10 th	Discussion	Reading Reflection
Friday June 11 th	No Class: Writing Day	
Readings	Review Text Ch. 3, 70-80. Unit 5 File on Canvas	

Unit 6: The Mongols

	Classwork	Assignments Due
Monday June 14 th	Lecture	
Tuesday June 15 th	Lecture	
Wednesday June 16 th	Lecture	
Thursday June 17 th	Lecture	
Friday June 18 th	Discussion	Reading Reflection Part 4: Final Comparative Research Paper
Readings	Text: Ch. 4, 93-115 Unit 6 File on Canvas	