Convenor:
Patrick Manning
3904 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
pmanning@pitt.edu
Office hours: Mon 11-12, Tues 4-5

Participating faculty:
Alejandro de la Fuente, Pinar Emiralioglu, Peter Karsten, Richard Oestreicher,
Evelyn Rawski, Jonathan Scott

Organization of the seminar is mostly thematic, and gives substantial attention to the last few centuries. Session leaders explore their chosen themes through imperial examples from selected times and places. In addition, the seminar gives some attention to chronology (at the beginning), plus systems and their development and research design (at the end). Overall, students should become acquainted with empirical descriptions of empires, with historiography on empires, and with numerous thematic approaches toward empires. They may gain a sense of how empires have changed over the past five millennia and how human society has changed in response to empires.

Assignments:
Students will write two sorts of papers:
(1) a total of six short papers (of 500 – 750 words each) on the readings in weeks of their choice;
(2) a research design paper of 2500 – 4000 words, defining a research project in the world history of empires, to be submitted before the final class, April 14.

Format of class session
Students will prepare for each session by completing the required readings, by writing short response papers (for half the sessions), by reading the papers of fellow students, and (not least) by reflecting on the accumulation of readings and discussions during the semester. Lead faculty members for each session may choose to direct the discussion, to comment on the discussion, or to make a presentation on the issue for the week and the reading. As a result, format for the seminar will vary from week to week, so that both students and faculty will have to be alert to the emphases in each week’s meeting.

Books for purchase, books on reserve
The following books have been ordered and should be available at the university bookstore. On the other hand, you may find it to your advantage to purchase them online.

- McNeill, William H. *The Rise of the West* (Week 2)
- Maier, Charles, *Among Empires* (Week 4)
- Darwin, John, *After Tamerlane* (Week 7)
- Allsen, Thomas, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (Week 7)
- Fleischer, Cornell, *Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire* (Week 8)
- Chase-Dunn, Christopher, and Thomas Hall, *Rise and Demise: Comparing World Systems* (Week 8)
- Elliott, John, *Empires of the Atlantic World* (Week 9)

In addition, (1) all available books will be placed on reserve, and (2) readings not otherwise available will be placed on electronic reserve – they will be identified in a subsequent version of this syllabus.

**Week 1. January 5 (Patrick Manning): Introduction**


**Week 2. January 12 (Patrick Manning): Chronology**


**Week 3. January 19 (Peter Karsten): Military**

Presentation: to be arranged


Suggested readings:

- Robert L O’Connell, *The Ride of the Second* Horseman: *The Birth and Death of War*, chs. 10-12 [online at Pitt; World History Center]
- Walter Kaegi, “Patterns of Political Activity of Armies of the Byzantine Empire,” in Morris Janowitz, ed., *On Military Intervention*, 4-35 [book reserve; World History Center]
- Peter Karsten, “Irish Soldiers in the British Army, 1792-1922: Suborned or Subordinate?” *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1983), 31-64 [online at Pitt; World History Center]
- Roger N Buckley, *Slaves in Redcoats: The British West Indies Regiment* [book reserve]

**Week 4. January 26 (Patrick Manning): Topics & Debates**

Presentation by Dan Bisbee

Charles Maier, *Among Empires* [bookstore]

**Week 5. February 3 (Evelyn Rawski): State formation processes.**

Presentation by James Hommes

Question for this week:
What are the factors shaping state formation? Outline the debate concerning state formation and the concept of the early modern period. What difference does it make to place state formation within a world history context?

Suggested readings:

Week 6. February 10 (Peter Karsten): Law

Presenation by Charlie Alessi
- Charles Cutter, *The Legal Culture of Northern New Spain, 1700 – 1810* [book reserve]
- Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession*, 179 – 193 [online at Pitt]
- Irene Spry, *The Tragedy of the Loss of the Commons in Western Canada,” in As Long as the Sun Shines and the Water Flows*, ed. Ian Getty [World History Center]

Week 7. February 17 (Patrick Manning): Mongol Heritage

Presentation by Ahmet Izmirlioglu
- T. Allsen, *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* [online at Pitt]

Week 8. February 24 (Pinar Emiralioglu and Patrick Manning)

Presentation by Izzet Bahar

This class session is divided into two portions, the first focusing on intellectual life and working from the case of the sixteenth-century Ottoman Empire, and the second addressing systems of empire and working from world-systems sociological analysis.

Intellectual Life (Emiralioglu)

Systems of Empire (Manning)
- Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall, *Rise and demise: comparing world systems*
Week 9. March 3 (Jonathan Scott): Early Modern Empire  
Presentation by Steven Pitt  
This class compares two very different types of European empire seizing resources amid widely diverging American cultures. Elliott’s study moves us beyond some obvious contrasts to others, perhaps more important, and to some interesting connections and commonalities. McNeill moves the geographical focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from a continent to islands, and to the European arrival in Polynesia. Our overall focus will be on the precarious technological negotiation of vast distances of time and space.

J.H Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America 1492-1830 (New Haven, 2007) Chs 1-8 (pp. 1-254) [online at Pitt]  

[March 10 – holiday]

Week 10. March 17 (Richard Oestreicher): Slavery, imperialism, & capitalist development  
Presentation by Titas Chakraborty  

Week 11. March 24 (Richard Oestreicher): Is globalization a new form of imperialism?  
Presentation: to be arranged  
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire, Preface and first three chapters, xi-63 [book reserve]  

Week 12. March 31. (Alejandro de la Fuente): American Empire  
Presentation by Suset Laboy Perez  
Ellen Walsh, “Advancing the Kingdom: Missionaries and Americanization in Puerto Rico, 1898-1930s” (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pittsburgh, 2007)

Week 13. April 7 (Patrick Manning): Research Design  

Week 14. April 14 (Patrick Manning): Wrap-up  
Review and discussion of the course and the research design papers.