

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Merchants of Empire: The First Global Corporations

Course Number and Section:

HISTORY

2714G 550

Instructor Name(s): Tim Compeau

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course examines the global impact of European joint stock companies from their inception as sixteenth-century trading expeditions to their central role in the history of imperialism, colonialism, and the development of the global capitalist economy. Topics include the rise of the corporation, expansion of global trading networks, imperial warfare, cultural contact and exchange, slavery and exploitation, colonial resistance and oppression, and the complex relationship between companies and imperial governments.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students will:

- understand the significance of key events, people, and ideas pertaining to the history of early global companies.
- understand the development and operation of European companies and how they shaped global imperialism from the sixteenth century to the present.
- connect historical events explored in class to current political and social issues.
- apply the historical method to challenge erroneous or chauvinistic assumptions of the past.
- express ideas and arguments clearly and concisely both orally and in writing.
- write and properly format an essay that uses primary and secondary evidence to support a thesis statement.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings can be found through the library databases and/or or have their stable URLs listed in the resources section on OWL.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	ongoing	10
Quiz 1	Jan. 24	7.5
Essay Proposal	Feb. 15	5
Quiz 2	Feb. 29	7.5
Essay Outline	Mar. 7	15
Essay	Mar. 24	25
Exam	April TBD	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023