

**Historical Tripos Part I Paper 21 Empires and World History from the
Fifteenth Century to the First World War Course Guide 2019-20 Course
Convenor – Johnhenry Gonzalez (jhg36)**

Course description

This course addresses one of the most important historical questions of our time: how did the modern world come to be? To answer this, the course covers the long run of global history and ranges over much of the world, from the silver mines of Peru and the sugar plantations of Barbados to the Eurasian heartlands of the Qing and Ottoman empires. For this was a world characterised both by connection and growing convergence, and by dogged differences and brutal coercion, by hybridity and cultural synthesis and stark political and economic inequalities.

For this reason, the course focuses in particular on the part played by imperial states and populations – European and non-European alike – in this process. What systems of economic extraction, production, and exchange did imperial states devise at different moments in world history? How did imperial rulers govern, and what means of coercion, persuasion and negotiation did they have at their disposal? And how did imperial populations respond to these methods of imperial rule? This course focuses not just on the administrative structures and great men of empire, from Suleiman the Magnificent to Clive of India, but also on the actions and thoughts of imperial subjects – on merchants and missionaries, peasants, slaves and settlers, on their religious beliefs and conversions, their accommodations and evasions, their resistance and their revolutions.

The course begins with the growth of the Ottoman, Mughal and Qing empires and the growing ambitions of the Iberian states that sent their soldiers, friars and merchants out into the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It then moves on to consider the ‘great divergence’ and the establishment of Dutch and English corporate imperialism in the Indian Ocean, the revolutionary upheavals and slave revolts of the eighteenth century, and the ‘great divergence’. Finally, it turns to the nineteenth-century world, examining the novel financial, legal and technological instruments European states deployed in their pursuit of imperial domination, and the efforts of non-European empires to reform government and society, and of Asian, Middle Eastern and African thinkers to imagine a political future free of European domination. Throughout, it never loses sight of the specificities of regional history and the singularity of human experience.

This is a course that moves up and down scales, seeking to introduce you at once to the large-scale processes that made the modern world and to the rich regional historiographies of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, and South, South-East, and East Asia.

Teaching

This course rewards an integrated approach. Your supervisor will help you to select topics that follow on from one another, enabling you to pick out a path through the course. It should be emphasised, however, that you are strongly encouraged to take full opportunity of the course’s breadth, and not to concentrate on a particular region or period. You are also encouraged to set particular topics in context and to think in comparative terms. In other words, it is worth thinking about the connections, comparisons, similarities and contrasts between particular topics, and not to think of each essay as a freestanding unit.

The lectures are designed to help you to see these thematic connections. An introductory set of lectures on key topics in global and imperial history will provide a foundation, before we move on to lectures on the various parts of the world covered by this paper: Latin America, Africa, South Asia, the Ottoman world, and East Asia. These are designed to give you a firm grounding in specific histories and historiographical debates, enabling you to combine specific knowledge with an awareness of broader themes. **You are encouraged to attend all lectures.**

1/2 LECTURES Michaelmas Term

Key topics in world history – Hank Gonzalez and Jeppe Mulich (Eight lectures, weeks 1-4), Th. 12, F. 11

1. Hybrid Americas
2. Eurasian empires
3. The Indian Ocean world
4. The worlds of Atlantic slavery
5. A global age of revolutions
6. European empire remade – the nineteenth century
7. The struggle for sovereignty – non-European states in the long nineteenth century
8. Global intellectual histories of the long nineteenth century

Latin America in world history – Hank Gonzalez and Emiliano Travieso (Four lectures, weeks 5-8) Th. 12

9. The ‘first globalization’: silver, sugar, slavery
10. The invention of Latin America: Latin America and the world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries
11. Latin America and the world, 1850-1914
12. America’s Backyard – The Rise of US Empire Before 1914

The Caribbean in world history – Johnhenry Gonzalez (Two lectures, weeks 5-6) F.11

The Pacific in world history – Jeppe Mulich (Two lectures, weeks 7-8) F.11

Lent Term South Asia – David Washbrook and Partha Shils (Four lectures, weeks 1-4), Th. 12

17. The Mughal empire
18. The eighteenth century in South Asia: Mughals, successor states, and Company state
19. Nineteenth-century colonial India and its world
20. Nationalism and anti-imperialism in South Asia

The Indian Ocean world – Christina Skott (Four lectures, weeks 1-4) M. 10

25. A maritime empire: the Portuguese in Asia
26. Companies and trade: the Dutch in the Indian Ocean
27. Religion, conversion and European expansion
28. Imperial transitions in the long nineteenth century

Africa in world history – Gareth Austin, David Maxwell, Saul Dubow (Four lectures, weeks 5-8) Th. 12

21. Pre-colonial Africa
22. Slavery and abolition in Africa
23. Missionaries and conversion in Africa
24. Partition and early colonial rule

The Ottoman world – Helen Pfeifer (Two lectures, weeks 5-6) M. 10

29. The early modern Ottoman empire: growth, crisis and consolidation
30. The Ottoman empire in the nineteenth century: war, reform, and sovereignty

The Qing empire – Rachel Leow (Two lectures, weeks 7-8), M. 10

31. China’s early modern empire: the Great Qing
32. The ‘sick man of Asia’? Challenging decline narratives of the Qing

Easter Term Revision Classes – Hank Gonzalez and Jeppe Mulich

(Two two-hour classes, weeks 1-2) M. 10

