UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Colonial and Postcolonial History

Code: 107228
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Social and Cultural Anthropology	FB	1

Contact

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Teachers

Bernat Hernandez Hernandez

David Martinez Fiol

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this
document.

Prerequisites

Knowledge of modern and contemporary history.

Knowledge of world geography (physical, political and historical).

Objectives and Contextualisation

1. Analysis of Western globalization from the 15th century to the present, from a non-Eurocentric perspective in terms of social, cultural, ethnic and gender relations.

2. Examine the ways in which Western colonial rule has affected and continues to affect international relations and people's daily lives.

3. Describe the processes of formation and crisis of the great western and also eastern colonial empires.

4. Analyze the religious, cultural, political and economic factors of the exercise of colonial power.

5. Describe the movements of adaptation and resistance against colonialism in non-Western societies.

6. Assess the importance of intercultural relations in modern and contemporary world history.

7. Develop critical interpretations from various historical sources.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM01 (Competence) Interpret current and past world events from social and humanities disciplines.
2. KM01 (Knowledge) Identify the theoretical foundations of the disciplines related to Anthropology and establish their relationships.
3. KM03 (Knowledge) Give information about anthropological topics to general and specialised audiences using ICT.
4. KM04 (Knowledge) Identify the interactions between local and global processes studied by related disciplines.
5. SM02 (Skill) Analyse dynamic principles of the current world incorporating other perspectives of the social sciences and humanities.
6. SM03 (Skill) Relate the elements and factors involved in the interpretation of local and global contexts studied by related disciplines.
7. SM04 (Skill) Adequately use the basic language of related sciences in both oral and written expression.

Content

MODERN ERA

1. Colonial expansions and terraformation: Europe and other worlds.

2. The globalization of populations and economies in the modern era.

3. Hybrid cultures and religious transformations in modern colonial spaces.

4. Transoceanic women: experiences of women in colonial spaces during the modern era.

CONTEMPORARY ERA

5. Imperial nation-states and the partition of the world: the idea of empire and imperial nationhood in the 19th century.

6. Against the idea of empire? The paradoxical imperialist anti-imperialism during the Great War.

7. The League of Nations, the new partition of the world, and the construction of revolutionary anti-imperialist culture.

8. World War II and the end of the myth of "white male superiority."

9. Decolonization and the impossibility of culturally homogeneous independent states: the cases of India, Israel, and the Belgian Congo.

10. Cultural decolonization in the Western world: the example of the Black civil rights struggle in the U.S. and South Africa.

11. Neocolonialism as a factor in the emergence of Islamic jihadisms.

12. Progressive neocolonialism (the myth of NGOs) and the construction of a new non-territorial idea of Empire.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes

Type: Directed			
Reading of texts. Writing of works. Preparation of oral comments and seminars. Search of bibliographic information	30	1.2	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04, CM01
Seminars and directed practices	6	0.24	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04, CM01
Theoretical classes	39	1.56	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04, CM01
Tutorial learning exercices	7.5	0.3	CM01, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04, CM01
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	15	0.6	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04, CM01
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	45	1.8	CM01, KM01, KM04, SM02, SM03, CM01

Attendance at theoretical and practical teacher sessions.

Attendance at seminars and practical sessions led by the teaching staff.

Critical reading of historical sources.

Learning information search strategies.

Realization of reviews, works and analytical comments.

Preparation of oral presentations.

Personal study.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and practices at classroom	30%	4.5	0.18	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04
Delivery of a paper	20%	0	0	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03,

				SM04
Exams	50%	3	0.12	CM01, KM01, KM03, KM04, SM02, SM03, SM04

Evaluation

Partial written tests 50%

Classroom practices 30%

Coursework 20%

Continued avaluation:

50% Two scheduled partial written tests (25% + 25%): may include summary questions, comments on texts and other documents from the moodle classroom (charts, graphs, maps, images...), class or course bibliography .
30% Class exercises (comments on maps, texts, course readings...).
20% Completion of assignments, essays, reviews or summaries, with a specific delivery date.

Class practices do not require scheduling or advance notice. Internships not completed due to lack of student attendance cannot be made up. Students who do not pass the grade of 3.5 points in the weighting of all continuous assessment activities scheduled throughout the course will be graded with a Not Assessable, and will not be able to present themselves for recovery.

Generally:

On Plagiarism: If a student commits any irregularity that could lead to a significant alteration in the grade of an assessment, that assessment will be graded with a 0, regardless of any disciplinary process that may be initiated. If multiple irregularities occur in assessments of the same subject, the final grade for that subject will be 0.

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted as an integral part of the development of assignments, provided that the final result reflects a significant contribution from the student in terms of analysis and personal reflection. The student must: (i) identify which parts were generated using AI; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these tools influenced both the process and the final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency in the use of AIin this assessed activity will be considered a breach of academic integrity and will result in a grade of 0 for the activity, with no possibility of resubmission, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

The recovery will consist of a globalexamination of the subject matter and will be held on the official dates established by the Faculty. Under no circumstances can recovery be considered as a means of improving the grade of students who have already passed the subject in the normal continuous assessment process. The maximum grade that can be obtained in the recovery is 5.0 (Passed).

This course applies a policy on spelling and syntactic accuracy. A penalty of 0.1 points will be deducted from the final grade for each error, up to a maximum of 1.5 points deducted from the final grade of each assessed activity. Repeated errors will be penalized.

At the time of completion/delivery of each assessment activity, the teaching staff will inform (moodle classroom, institutional email) of the procedure and date of review of the qualifications.

Particular cases of follow-up of the subject will be taken into account and will receive specific treatment, especially students included in the PIUNE program.

Our University does not accept any discrimination against teachers or students based on criteria of ethnicity, language, nationality, religion, sex, age or functional diversity. In the class we will try to maintain an atmosphere of shared respect for all differences.

Bibliography

MODERN ERA

Sebastian Conrad, *Historia global. Una nueva visión para el mundo actual* (Barcelona, Planeta, 2017).

Marc Ferro, *La colonización. Una historia global* (Madrid, Siglo XXI, 2000).

Amitav Ghosh, *La maldición de la nuez moscada* (Madrid, Capitán Swing, 2023).

Christian Grataloup, *La historia del mundo. Un atlas* (Barcelona, Península, 2023).

Serge Gruzinski, *El águila y el dragón. Desmesura europea y mundialización en el siglo XVI* (México, FCE, 2018).

Carlos Martínez Shaw; Marina Alfonso Mola, *Historia moderna: Europa, África, Asia y América* (Madrid, UNED, 2015).

Mary L. Pratt, *Ojos imperiales. Literatura de viajes y transculturación* (Madrid, FCE, 2010).

Lorenzo Veracini, *Colonialism. A Global History* (New York, Routledge, 2023).

CONTEMPORARY ERA

Susan Bayly, *SAINTS, GODDESSES AND KINGS. Muslims and Christians in South Indian society 1700-1900*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Jean Bricmont, *Imperialismo humanitario. El uso de los Derechos Humanos para vender la guerra*, prologo de Noah Chomsky, Barcelona, El Viejo Topo, 2005.

William EASTERLY, *The White man's burden: why the West's efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good,* Penguin Books, 2006 (BIBLIOTECA DE CIÈNCIES SOCIALS, UAB).

Niall Ferguson, *Civilización. Occidente y el resto*, Barcelona, Ramdom House Mondadori, 2012.

Josep M. Fradera, *La Nación Imperial (1750-1918)*, Barcelona, Edhasa, 2015, 2 vols. (BIBLIOTECA D'HUMANITATS UAB).

Josep M. Fradera, *Antes del antiimperialismo. Genealogía y límites de una tradición humanitària*, Barcelona, Editorial Anagrama, 2022 (BIBLIOTECA D'HUMANITATS UAB).

Michael Hardt i Antonio Negri, *Imperio*, Barcelona, Ediciones Paidos, 2015.

Jürgen Osterhammel i Jan C. Jansen, *Colonialismo. Historia, formas, efectos*, Madrid, Siglo XXI de España Editores S.A., 2019.

Edward W. Said, *Cultura e imperialismo*, Barcelona, Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial, 2018.

Software

Nothing to do.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed