

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Department of African American Studies  
AFR 2402 The Heritage of Imperialism  
Tuesday 2:30-5:00pm (P511)



Prerequisites: ENG 1101 and any AFR course  
College Option: AFR

Instructor: Javiela Evangelista

Office: A634

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45-2:15pm, 5:00-  
5:30pm or by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course offers an examination of the thought, structure, operation and results of imperialism in human history generally, and in the 19th/21st centuries in particular. European/American imperialism in the non-white areas of the world: the role of the Industrial Revolution; the imposition of Western European institutions on indigenous peoples of Africa, Asia, North/South America; colonialism; attempts by these people to reestablish autonomous sociological and cultural systems.

## **Course Objectives:**

During the course, students will be taught to:

1. Define and utilize the concepts of imperialism, race, and diaspora while demonstrating an understanding of the vast application and complexity of these concepts.
2. Analyze contemporary connections to imperialism for African descendants in consideration of various points of view. For example, students will learn that contemporary continuities of imperialism may manifest in communities that are economically and politically marginalized, as well as privileged communities. Likewise, students will understand the legacy of imperialism as not solely oppressive, but also resistive. As reflected in the course schedule, the range of readings assigned and discussed reflect multiple points of view.
3. Analyze how race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, migration, capitalism and labor, the state and militarism, and ideals of expansion and expulsion are related to the historical and contemporary development of various African diasporic societies and hence the heritage of imperialism within the African diaspora. Furthermore, students will analyze and discuss the central role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and language have played and continue to play in imperial pursuits and also in resistance against imperialism. Towards this end, students will analyze cultural formations, and political and revolutionary movements emerging from the African diaspora. Students will engage in such analysis within larger conversations of geography and political economy.
4. Analyze the relationships between specific historical events and contemporary trends, occurrences and knowledge.
5. Critically engage with and respond to the heritage of imperialism, in a variety of spaces including academia. By studying and engaging networks such as Decolonize this Space and Black Lives Matter, students will gain a greater understanding of the value and utility of social responsibility, civic engagement and scholarship for the public.
6. Map connections between regional and diasporic social movements and processes and understand the geography of central points of discussion concerning the heritage of imperialism as it relates to the African diaspora, on a global scale. The course schedule, the range of readings assigned and discussed reflect global cultural diversity.
7. Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods from several disciplines. Students will analyze historiographical sources and understand the contributions of primary and secondary sources and archival research (and how these sources may work to eradicate or contribute to inequities). It is necessary for a course on the heritage of imperialism to be grounded in historical analysis. Students will also evaluate ethnographic texts from Anthropology and Sociology in order to understand ethnographic methodology and value the contributions of people whose perspectives may not be privileged in other mediums. Students will learn to use concepts in art, political economy and geography as analytical tools of the heritage of imperialism.
8. Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of African and African American Studies.

**Required Text:** The Course Reader is available for purchase in the college bookstore. The title of the Course Reader is the same as the title of the course.

**New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity:** Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

**Classroom Management:** Cell phone use and talking (unless a group activity) is prohibited in class. Bring your Course Reader to all class meetings. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Complete all assignments on time for credit. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Assignment and Grading Scale:**

A	93.0 - 100	C+	77.0 - 79.9
A-	90.0 - 92.9	C	70.0 - 76.9
B+	87.0 - 89.9	D	60.0 - 69.9
B	83.0 - 86.9	F	59.9 and Below
B-	80.0 - 82.9		

**Final Course Grade:**

Reading Quizzes	15%	
Midterm	15%	
Final Exam	25%	
Writing Assignments	15%	Noted with an * on the course schedule
Group Presentation	15%	
Research Paper	15 %	
TOTAL	100%	

### Course Based Learning Outcomes with Assessment Methods

Outcomes	Assessment
Be able to evaluate evidence and arguments of historical and contemporary trends of imperialism within the African diaspora.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; writing assignments and research paper.
Learn the skills to gather, evaluate and assess historical and contemporary sources that address trends of imperialism within the African diaspora from a range of disciplines and geographical locations. * Primary and secondary sources, including books, peer reviewed journals, documentaries, and exhibits will be used.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper
Develop critical arguments about the heritage of imperialism in consideration of multiple outcomes, grounded in evidence from a range of perspectives/disciplines.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper

### Gen Ed Learning Outcomes with Assessment Methods

Outcomes	Assessment
Knowledge: Engage in critical inquiry, research, and analysis concerning imperialism as related to people of African descent on a global scale, by use of material and methods from African American Studies and other disciplines.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper.
Skills: Students will learn to analyze material from different disciplines, devise research strategies and methodology and develop critical arguments about contemporary issues with historical grounding.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper
Integration: Students will integrate historical and contemporary perspectives. Students will also integrate the use of material and methods from African American Studies and other disciplines.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper
Values, Ethics, and Relationships: Central components of the course, students will consider citizenship, human rights, civic engagement, social responsibility and scholarship for the public.	Class discussions; quizzes and exams; presentation; writing assignments and research paper

### Course Reading Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignment	Due Date
1	Imperialism  Definitions and Theoretical Approaches	Introductions Review Syllabus Read: Miskelly (Imperialism) View: Kehinde Wiley- World Stage Explore: Kehinde Wiley's Art	T. 1/29
2	Research	Library Research Methods Session  <i>Submit Paper Topic</i>	T. 2/5
		NO AFR 2402 MEETING <i>No Classes Scheduled</i>	T. 2/12
3	Capitalism  “The study of imperialism (in the modern world) is the study of capitalism”	Read: Miskelly (Capitalism)  View: The Atlantic Slave Trade (Ted Ed) Guerra (El Costo de la Vida)  <i>Submit Sources</i>	T. 2/19
4	Decolonization	Read: Betts (Introduction) Nkrumah (Neo-Colonialism)	T. 2/26

5	Nation and Nationalism	<p>Read: Tan, Shapiro (Justice Without Borders)</p> <p>Miskelly (Nationalism)</p> <p>View: Marc Lamont Hill interview</p> <p><i>Submit Thesis</i></p>	T. 3/5
6	Militarism  Expanding and Closing Borders	<p>Read: Meyer (The Climate Wall)</p> <p>View: Democracy Now! (Caravan of Central American Migrants Holds a Mirror)</p>	T. 3/12
7	Accumulation by Dispossession	<p>Read: Holden (Exemplifying Accumulation by Dispossession)</p> <p>Listen: Brian Lehrer Show (How Colonialism in the Caribbean Affects Hurricane Prep)</p> <p><i>Submit Draft</i></p>	T. 3/19
8	Power and the Production of Knowledge  Academia	<p><b>Guest Lecture: Camille Fair, "Place Value: Considering Black Girl Brilliance and Math" PhD Candidate American University (Math)</b></p> <p><b>Reading: TBD</b></p>	T. 3/26

9		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	T. 4/2  -
10	Power and the Production of Knowledge  Media	! <b>Class Field Trip: "The Importance of Independent Media," Simin Farkhondeh, Education Director at <i>Democracy Now!</i> (Media Studies)</b> <b><u>Instead of our class, arrive at the Democracy Now! Studio at 7:30am. It is located at 207 West 25th Street, 11 floor near the corner of 7th Avenue. The visit will end at 10:30am.</u></b>	T. 4/9
11	Power and the Production of Knowledge  Technology	<b>Guest Lecture: "Decolonial Computing," Dr. Lisa Tagliaferri, Engineering Technical Writer, Digital Oceans (Digital Humanities)</b>  <b>Reading TBD</b>  <i>Submit Research Paper</i>	T. 4/16
		NO AFR 2402 MEETING <i>No Classes Scheduled</i> Spring Recess	T. 4/23

12	Power and the Production of Knowledge  Birthing	<p><b>Guest Lecture: "Unlearning The Given: Childbirth &amp; Women's Health As Reflections of A Culture," Camalo Gaskin, Author, Women's Health Advocate, Birth and Postpartum Doula, Curator and Host of <i>Birth to Birth Symposiums</i> (Nursing)</b></p> <p>Read: Villarosa (Why Americas Black Mothers and Babies are in a Life or Death Crisis)</p> <p>Krase (History of Forced Sterilization)</p> <p>View: Lake (The Business of Being Born)</p>	T. 4/30
13	Power and the Production of Knowledge  Human Rights	<p><b>Guest Lecture: "The Task of the Artist in the Time of Monsters," Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, Musician, Author and Theologian (Theology and Art)</b></p> <p>Read: Wessler (Is Denaturalization the Next Front?)</p> <p>View: Democracy Now! (Meet Victoria Morales)</p> <p>Sekou (Song for Mississippi)</p>	T. 5/7
14		Group Presentations	T. 5/14
15		Final Exam	T. 5/21



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## Recommended Bibliography

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