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Office hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:30  
and by appointment

## America and the World

Wednesdays 6:00-9:00  
Location: HILL HALL 115  
Rutgers University – Newark  
21:790:202, Index #: 11358

Course Description: This course will explore the history and politics of American imperial expansion, past and present, in order to understand America's role in the world. In the course, we will learn about distinct phases in American territorial expansion, as well as other forms of imperialism. Students will be invited to ask questions such as: what constitutes an empire and what is imperialism? Has the US been, and does it continue to be, imperialist? We will seek to answer these questions historically, by looking at the role of the US in multiple parts of the world, including the settler context. Finally, we will inquire into how the history of American settler and foreign policy impacts contemporary global politics.

*Welcome to class!*

### **Required text:**

Adam Burns, *American Imperialism: The Territorial Expansion of the United States*, Oxford University Press/Edinburgh University Press, 2017.

The text can be purchased, either new or used, at the [University bookstore](#).

- Please bring a copy of your readings to class each week, and please complete your readings before class.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To gain historical knowledge of different phases and forms of American interventionism using grounded case studies
- To promote critical thinking in assessing America’s role in the world
- To develop and also question different conceptual tools that are used to understand America’s position in the world
- The ability to interpret course materials and demonstrate creative thinking
- Improvement of reading skills (for example through in-class instruction on critical reading techniques)
- Improvement of writing skills through essay-style test questions
- Enhancement of time-management skills
- The development of translational skills: taking what you have learned in class and translating and synthesizing that knowledge into different formats, such as multimedia outputs
- To professionalize students and foster forward-thinking in preparation for their future and present careers, including working cooperatively and self-reflexively

**Assessment:**

There will be three tests in this class, and you will also earn grades for attendance and participation.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Value</b>
Test 1	Sept 26	20%
Test 2	Oct 24	25%
Test 3	Dec 5	30%
Multimedia Assignment	Dec 12 – on Blackboard	10%
Participation	Throughout the semester	15%

Participation grades are awarded on the basis of: 1. Attendance; 2. Coming to class prepared with your readings done, and engaging in the class in ways that demonstrate your careful reading of the assigned texts; 3. Collegiality: showing respect for your fellow students even when you might disagree, and actively working to make sure that everyone in the course has an opportunity to be heard – i.e. encouraging the participation of others; 4. Active participation in class workshops and activities, including in groups.

### **Important information:**

- ❖ For information such as add/drop dates please visit the following website:  
<https://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-academic-calendar>
- ❖ Students with disabilities who require accommodation should work with the [Office of Disability Services](#) (973-353-5300). Also please let me know whether you require any accommodation, and we can work together with the Office of Disability Services to ensure your needs are met.
- ❖ Students should be aware of the services of [The Writing Centre](#). The Writing Center offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes.
- ❖ All students are required to be familiar with, and adhere to, the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see the University's [Academic Integrity site](#)). Students who commit plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Integrity Facilitator, and may be subject to sanction. It is your responsibility to be fully familiar with the University's policy on academic integrity.

### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**Sept 5:** Introductory Class

**Sept 12: What is Imperialism? Territorial, Economic, Settler, Border, and Cultural Imperialism**

Readings:

Burns, *Introduction: Defining an Empire*

Burns, *Chapter 1: Atlantic to Pacific (1783-1893)*

**Sept 19: Settler Colonialism (Case Study on Native American Displacement)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 2: Heading Northwards (1812-1903)*

**Sept 26: Test 1 (20%)**

**Oct 3: Global Territorial Expansion (Haiti Case study)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 3: Leaving the Continent (1817-1890)*

**Oct 10: America in the Atlantic and Pacific (Cuba & Guano Islands Case Studies)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 4: A Two Ocean Empire (1890-1898)*

**Oct 17: The Spanish-American War and its Aftermath (Puerto Rico case study)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 5: Spanish Plunder (1898-1917)*

**Oct 24: Test 2 (25%)**

**Oct 31: American Imperialism in Global Context (Case Study on Hawaii)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 6: An Empire Among Equals (1899-1917)*

**Nov 7: Occupation and Annexation (Iraq and Afghanistan case studies)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 7: Occupation Over Annexation (1912-1973)*

**Nov 14: America and the World Now: Contemporary Imperialism? (Case Study on American Military Bases Abroad)**

Readings:

Burns, *Chapter 8: Continuing Imperialism (1940-2013)*

Burns, *Conclusion*

**Nov 21: No class – Friday schedule (due to Thanksgiving break)**

**Nov 28: Multimedia Workshop & Assignment**

**\*\*Review for test 3!\*\***

In addition to reviewing the materials for your final test next week, this class will be dedicated to providing students with a workshop on their multimedia assignment for the semester. This year, we will focus on comic strips as a form of political art. Students will be given examples of comic strips that explore political themes related to the class, as well as short illustrated histories of events covered in class. Instructions on how to complete and submit your assignment (worth 10%) will also be provided.

**Dec 5 – Test 3 (30%)**

**Dec 12 – No class (due to conference)**

**\*Multimedia assignment due on Blackboard\***