

## COURSE DETAIL

### BRITISH EMPIRE

**Country**

Japan

**Host Institution**

Waseda University

**Program(s)**

Waseda University

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History European Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

122

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

BRITISH EMPIRE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

BRITISH EMPIRE

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

3.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

2.00

## **Course Description**

The influence exercised by a colonizing power on life in the territories it governs can vary from very small to very great. In the case of the British Empire, which began sometime around the year 1600 and kept expanding for the next three hundred years, there was in most cases a profound impact on the colonies it controlled. There were many such colonies, some of them very substantial in size. By the time it reached its peak, at the end of the nineteenth century, the British Empire was the largest empire the world had ever seen, encompassing a quarter of the world's population and territory. The first part of this course traces the gradual rise of this empire, examining the reasons and the means by which Britain expanded its reach outwards; how expansion began with the establishment of small but economically rewarding trading posts on foreign coasts, where they could be supported by Britain's powerful naval resources, and then how these settlements gradually extended their influence inland; and the interplay of political, economic, religious, and military factors in the process of empire-building, and considers the effects that British policies had on countries like India, Australia, and South Africa. Later in the course, the focus shifts from the general to the particular, in this case, the question of how Britain dealt with a single colony: Malta. Although this part of the course deals specifically with the impact of Britain's policies on society in Malta, the answers that emerge, since they effectively relate to all imperial systems, have a bearing on matters of imperialism as a whole. The course concludes with a brief look at the postcolonial period and the modern Commonwealth of Nations. Assessment: exam, papers, class participation, attendance.

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

## **Host Institution Course Number**

ARSE201L

## **Host Institution Course Title**

BRITISH EMPIRE

## **Host Institution Campus**

School of Political Science and Economics

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**  
Area Studies

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