COURSE DETAIL

EMPIRE AND BRITISH CULTURE SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY
Country Germany
Host Institution Humboldt University Berlin
Program(s) Humboldt University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History European Studies
UCEAP Course Number 130
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title EMPIRE AND BRITISH CULTURE SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY
UCEAP Transcript Title EMPIRE&BRIT CULTURE
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

How has over 300 years of colonialism left its mark on Britain? Whilst some scholars assert that the British were indifferent to empire – that empire was acquired in a “fit of absence of mind” (JR Seeley) – others point to the many traces of empire left in British society and culture to this day. This course analyses these effects and legacies by focusing on the artefacts of empire. Empire seems to be everywhere across British history: in consumer goods and fashion, the built environment and the domestic interior, advertising, visual media and museums, as well as institutions such as the monarchy and the BBC. But is this culture of empire, or simply a random mix of influences from around the world? To what extent is this material culture mediated by narratives of colonial power and racial superiority? This course considers the conquest of Ireland in the 16th and 17th centuries and the onset of slavery in the Caribbean, then looks at the colonization of North America and parts of the Pacific, before moving through the British Raj in India and onto the colonial conquests of Africa and the Middle East, finishing with the end of empire after 1945 and the imperial nostalgia that feeds Brexit. Throughout the course the focus is on cultural objects, their context, and their interpretation.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
51451

Host Institution Course Title
EMPIRE AND BRITISH CULTURE SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY

Host Institution Course Details
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Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Geschichtswissenschaften

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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