COURSE DETAIL

ENVIRONMENT AND EMPIRE

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
University of London, Queen Mary

Program(s)
Summer at Queen Mary London

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History Geography Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number
103

UCEAP Course Suffix
S

UCEAP Official Title
ENVIRONMENT AND EMPIRE

UCEAP Transcript Title
ENVIRONMENT& EMPIRE

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course examines how environmental challenges have been, and continue to be, shaped by empire. These impacts affect how Earth's history, the biosphere, and the climate are known, and extend to both extractive technologies and financial relationships that enable extraction. But the effects of empire run deeper, to the very way the environment is understood. Using London as a launchpad for field trips and firsthand encounters, this course challenges students to rethink how ideas of the planet’s past, present, and future are shaped by empire. Students examine how empire has shaped, and continues to shape, environmental knowledge; explore sites and spaces of empire, such as where the material markers of scientific knowledge persist in advancing ways of knowing and relating to the environment today; investigate how contemporary modes of extraction maintain links to the legacies of empire, such as in and through financial activities; are provided with concrete analytical skills for situating contemporary challenges in historical context; and are encouraged to engage critically and thoughtfully with how environmental thought, and baselines for assessing environmental impacts, have been influenced by the data collected through empire.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SUM503F

Host Institution Course Title
ENVIRONMENT AND EMPIRE

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.qmul.ac.uk/summer-school/what-can-i-study/modules/environment-and-e...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty School of Geography
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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