

# COURSE DETAIL

## AROUND THE EQUATOR: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE TROPICS

**Country**

Ireland

**Host Institution**

Trinity College Dublin

**Program(s)**

Trinity College Dublin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History

**UCEAP Course Number**

180

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

AROUND THE EQUATOR: A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE TROPICS

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

HISTORY OF TROPICS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

10.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

6.70

## Course Description

This course examines the historical construction of the “tropics” as both an ecological reality and an ideological concept central to Western thought. Adopting a global perspective, the course explores how European and later North American interpretations of tropical environments shaped colonial expansion, economic development, and enduring social, racial, and cultural inequalities. This course explores the multiple dimensions of this history from a global perspective, emphasizing the creation of a unified and coherent bioclimatic zones that amalgamates parts of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania. After discussing the concept of ‘tropicality’ – the European gaze on non-European environments – the course covers critical aspects of that amalgamation, including colonialism, resource extractivism, and intertropical species transfer and acclimatization. The last part of the course focuses on two urgent contemporary issues, namely climate change and decolonization, seeking to discuss the future of the ‘tropics’.

## Language(s) of Instruction

English

## Host Institution Course Number

HIU34573

## Host Institution Course Title

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## Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.tcd.ie/history/assets/pdf/ug/25-26/list2/equator.pdf>

## Host Institution Campus

## Host Institution Faculty

History

## Host Institution Degree

## Host Institution Department

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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