

COURSE DETAIL

EMPIRES AND MODERNITIES

Country

South Africa

Host Institution

University of Cape Town

Program(s)

University of Cape Town

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

25

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

EMPIRES AND MODERNITIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

EMPIRES & MODERNITS

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

Histories of modernity are inextricably entwined with histories of empires. Even in a time when the formal empires have arguably collapsed, the categories through which we approach the modern world are still deeply shaped by the persistence of imperial modes of thinking. This course focuses on a range of key concepts of modernity and encourages critically thinking about these concepts by drawing particular attention to the tensions between their metropolitan and colonial careers. The course offers a broad and critical narrative of world history from the nineteenth through the twenty first century. A primary goal of the course is to provide an understanding of how these concepts carry many different histories within them, how they are open to contending interpretations, and how crucial the sense of their varied historical contexts is to the practice of social sciences and humanities. As an introductory course to Historical Studies, content that engages the diversity of students' lifeworld's and is cognizant of our African location are used. We employ innovative teaching and delivery methods, including multilingual pedagogies and digital literacy, that allow more time for active engagement and the development of critical reading and writing skills in the Humanities. DP requirements: 100% of required coursework and course evaluation. Assessment: Continuous assessment (essays, projects, tests, etc.) counts 100%.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HST1014S

Host Institution Course Title

EMPIRES AND MODERNITIES

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/2026-hum-handbook-9a-...>

Host Institution Campus

University of Cape Town

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Historical Studies

Course Last Reviewed

2026-2027

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