Course Description:
The fact of U.S. Empire is built on the very denial of imperial ambitions. It has existed and expanded through restraint from territorial acquisitions and through explicit normative commitments to liberal democracy, economic development and freedom of information, ideas and culture. It can be argued that these central pillars, backed by the most powerful military on Earth, have been at the heart of the U.S.’ imperial success. This is an empire fit for modern day sensibilities of a militarized liberal world order.

This course explores the makings of the U.S. Empire in the long 20th century through its interactions with what has come to be termed “the Global South.” While the U.S. Empire and the Global South are broad categories, special attention is paid to the articulation of imperial formations that have woven different regions of the world together. To better address the global workings of empire, the course will move through different case studies. These examples portray formal colonization, militarized colonialism, interventions in the realm of political economy, and the waging and remembering of war. The last weeks of the semester are focused on the evolution or perhaps decline of the U.S. Empire at the turn of the 21st century.

Course Objectives:
The main goals of the course are for students: to think critically about empire as a dynamic category of analysis, to learn about U.S. interactions with the Global South, to delve into debates about U.S. exceptionalism, and to examine opposition and contestation to U.S. Empire.

Course Requirements:
To successfully complete the course, students are required to (1) attend and participate actively in class, (2) present on and write about course texts, (3) complete an in-class exam, (4) write an essay and (5) do a class presentation based on the topic for the essay. The final grade for the course is divided as follows: participation (30%), exam (30%), final essay (30%), presentation on the essay (10%).

The participation grade depends on the careful reading of course texts, attendance, and active involvement in class discussions. Students are expected to contribute on a
In terms of attendance, each student is entitled to one non-justified absence. Each absence thereafter will result in a one-fifth deduction of the participation grade.

The participation grade also depends on two class presentations and accompanying reactions that critically engage course texts and help lead class discussions. These assignments should delve into particular readings while identifying connections between the readings and topic for the week. The reactions are to be posted under the FORUM section of NYU Classes by the Monday (12 PM) prior to the weekly meeting. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to attend and write about events outside of the classroom that are relevant to class discussions. More details on class presentation requirements will be posted on the class website.

The mid-semester exam will take place on March 21st and will address key concepts and themes covered in the first half of the class. The final essay, due on May 5th, will address themes covered during the semester. Students should visit NYU Classes for detailed instructions about the exam and essay. Students should also note that the exam, essay and reactions comprise some 20 pages of written work.

**Deadlines:**
Assignments must be completed and submitted within the established deadlines. There will be no makeup exams and late written assignments will not be accepted, except with valid and preferably written medical excuses. Incompletes are not an option. If a student has a compelling reason for wanting an incomplete, the student should talk to the professors before the last day of class.

**Accommodations:**
Students who require accommodations because of a disability should visit the Henry and Lucy Moses Center (726 Broadway, 2nd Floor) and talk to the professors during the first week of class.

**Writing:**
Writing is an essential part of this course and of academic life in general. Students are encouraged to visit the professors during their office hours and the Gallatin Writing Center (1 Washington Place, Room 423) in order to discuss the writing process.

**Gallatin Statement on Academic Integrity:**
“As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html] for a full description of the academic integrity policy.”
Additional Information:
The use of laptops and/or other electronic devices is not permitted in class.

Course Readings:
The readings for the course can be found in the NYU Main Bookstore (726 Broadway),
the NYU Library website and NYU Classes.

To navigate NYU Classes please see:


Course Schedule:

WEEK I:
INTRODUCTION TO (U.S.) EMPIRE

< January 24th >


Suggested Reading:

WEEKS II & III:
THE MAKINGS OF A COLONY: THE CASE OF PUERTO RICO

< January 31st >


Miles, Nelson A. “Proclamation to the Inhabitants of Puerto Rico.” July 28, 1898.


**February 7th**

GUEST-SPEAKER NATASHA LYCIA ORA BANNAN


Cruz Soto, Marie. “Strategic Spaces, Disposable Peoples: Lessons on Imperial Learning and Colonial Unruliness from Vieques, Puerto Rico.” Work in progress.


Mahan, Alfred T. The Influence of Sea Power. 1890.


In-class screening of:


**WEEKS IV & V:**

THE MAKINGS OF THE THIRD WORLD: THE CASE OF CHILE

**February 14th**


In-class screening of:

< February 21st >


WEEKS VI & VII:
MILITARIZED COLONIALISM: THE CASE OF OKINAWA, JAPAN

< February 28th >


Suggested Reading:

< March 7th >


In-class screening of:

WEEKS VIII & IX:
REMEMBERING WAR: THE CASE OF VIETNAM

< March 21st >

EXAM

In-class screening of:

< March 28th >


WEEK X & XI:
THE MAKINGS OF THE WAR ON TERROR:
AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ AND PAKISTAN

< April 4th >


< April 11th >


In-class screening of:

WEEKS XII & XIII:
EMPIRE IN DECLINE?

< April 18th >
GUEST-SPEAKERS


< April 25th >
PRESENTATIONS


WEEK XIV:
CONCLUSION

< May 2nd >
PRESENTATIONS