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Office Hours:  
Tuesdays, 4:30-5:20  
and by appointment

## America and the World

Wednesdays 6:00-9:00  
Location: HILL 210  
Rutgers University – Newark

Course Description: This course will explore the history and politics of American imperial expansion, past and present, in order to understand America's role in the world. In the course, we will learn about distinct phases in American territorial expansion, as well as other forms of imperialism. Students will be invited to ask questions such as: what constitutes an empire and what is imperialism? Has the US been, and does it continue to be, imperialist? We will seek to answer these questions historically, by looking at the role of the US in multiple parts of the world, including the settler context. Finally, we will inquire into how the history of American settler and foreign policy impacts contemporary global politics.

Welcome to class.

**Required text:** *American Imperialism: The Territorial Expansion of the United States*, by Adam Burns  
The text can be purchased, either new or used, at the [University bookstore](#).

### Assessment:

There will be three tests in this class, and you will also earn grades for attendance and participation.

Assessment	Date	Value
Test 1	Feb 7th	20%
Test 2	March 7th	25%
Test 3	April 18	40%
Participation	Throughout the semester	15%

Participation grades are awarded on the basis of: 1. Attendance; 2. Coming to class prepared with your readings done, and engaging in the class in ways that demonstrate your careful reading of the assigned texts; 3. Collegiality: showing respect for your fellow students even when you might disagree, and actively working to make sure that everyone in the course has an opportunity to be heard – i.e. encouraging the participation of others.

**Further information:**

- ❖ Students with disabilities who require accommodation should work with the [Office of Disability Services](#) (973-353-5300). Also please let me know whether you require any accommodation, and we can work together with the Office of Disability Services to ensure your needs are met.
- ❖ Students should also be aware of the services of [The Writing Centre](#). The Writing Center offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes.
- ❖ All students are required to be familiar with, and adhere to, the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see the University's [Academic Integrity site](#)). Students who commit plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Integrity Facilitator, and may be subject to sanction. It is your responsibility to be fully familiar with the University's policy on academic integrity.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**Jan 17:** Introductory Class

**Jan 24 – What is Imperialism?**

Burns, *Introduction: Defining an Empire*  
Burns, *Chapter 1: Atlantic to Pacific (1783-1893)*

**Jan 31 – Settler Imperialism?**

Burns, *Chapter 2: Heading Northwards (1812-1903)*

**Feb 7 – Test (20%)**

**Feb 14 – Global Territorial Expansion**

Burns, *Chapter 3: Leaving the Continent (1817-1890)*

**Feb 21 – America in the Atlantic and Pacific**

Burns, *Chapter 4: A Two Ocean Empire (1890-1898)*

**Feb 28 – The Spanish-American War and its Aftermath**

Burns, *Chapter 5: Spanish Plunder (1898-1917)*

**March 7 - Test**

**March 14 – No class: Spring Recess**

**March 21 – American Imperialism in Context**

Burns, *Chapter 6: An Empire Among Equals (1899-1917)*

**March 28 – Occupation and Annexation**

Burns, *Chapter 7: Occupation Over Annexation (1912-1973)*

**April 4 – No class (ISA conference)**

**April 11 – America and the World Now: Contemporary Imperialism?**

Burns, *Chapter 8: Continuing Imperialism (1940-2013)*

Burns, *Conclusion*

**April 18 - Test**

**April 25 – Wrap Up: Everyday Experiences of American Imperialism**