

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: HIST 314		Number of Credits: 4 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire Course Short Title: Rise & Fall of British Empire															
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities		Department/School: History													
Calendar Description: Examines the forces that shaped the emergence, development, and collapse of the British Empire from the 17th to the 20th century. The impact of the Empire on the British economy and society as well as its impact on its settler and Indigenous subjects will be considered. Issues such as race, gender, and class in the context of constantly changing metropolitan and imperial cultural structures will receive special consideration.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		9 credits of lower-level history or 45 university-level credits.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 30													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	60									Total hours	60	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	60														
Total hours	60														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No		Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: February 7, 2025													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: May 9, 2025													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: September 26, 2025													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Assess the forces that shaped the British Empire and assess their impact on its peoples.
2. Assess themes and issues in the history of the British Empire.
3. Articulate the importance of context, evidence, perspective, and research in the study of history.
4. Work with multiple sources, both primary and secondary.
5. Employ historical convention and consciousness when communicating to an audience.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	20%	Assignments:	65%	%
Quizzes/tests/midterm:	%	Holistic assessment:	15%	%

Details:

Assignments:

Document analysis (5 x 400 words each): 20%

Document analysis (1000 words): 10%

Research paper: 35% (2500-3000 words)

Holistic assessment through reflective writing.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lectures, seminars, and written assignments.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Philippa Levine	The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset	2019
2. Online resource	Readings available on reserve and the library electronic database		
3.			
4.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

- Introduction
- Late medieval idea of empire: Perspectives of "peoples" and "worlds"
- Exploration, discovery, and early modern imperialism
- Slavery, settlements, and plantations in the West Indies
- Consumer, financial, and communications revolutions and the British Empire
- War, revolution, and the collapse of the first empire
- India and Britain's eastern empire
- Science and religion in the nineteenth century empire
- Governing Victoria's empire
- Empire at war
- Rise of nationalism and anti-imperialism
- Collapse of empire
- The legacy of empire