CIEE Lisbon, Portugal

Course name: The Portuguese colonial experience (16th to 19th centuries)
Course number: HIST3005LILC
Programs offering course: Lisbon Language and Culture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 46
Term: Fall 2019

Course Description

Lectures cover the history of the Portuguese colonial empire from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth century. The course aims at providing the students with a specific, ample, detailed and up-to-date knowledge of the several periods of Portuguese overseas rule between ca. 1450 and 1822, as well as the ability to compare it with other colonial empires.

Learning Objectives

Having successfully completed this module, students will be able to:
- Recognize the value of the history of Portuguese colonial rule to understand nowadays Portugal;
- Relate processes of social change across the Portuguese empire with current issues;
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the several dimensions of the Portuguese colonial empire between the sixteenth and the early-nineteenth centuries;
- Locate, collect and interpret a range of sources in the development of assessed work on the Portuguese colonial domination in a historical perspective;
- Differentiate the various historiographical trends in the study of early-modern Portuguese overseas expansion.
- Enhance your critical thinking about the history of empires and their role in the making of the modern world.

Course Prerequisites

There are no course prerequisites.

Methods of Instruction

- The class schedule will consist of two two-hour sessions each week. The first part of each session is allotted to lectures by the professor, while the second part is devoted to an oral presentation by students, followed by a discussion.
- Lectures supplement and complement reading assignments, and introduce problems to be brought up in the discussion period.
- Discussions cover the reading assignment for each topic, and their aim is to make students investigate problems, analyze interpretations of subjects in the readings and/or lectures.
- Outlines of lectures, maps and other supplementary material will be distributed to students on canvas.

Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Midterm exam: 25%
- Participation in class: 10%
- Oral presentation: 15%
- Midterm Quiz: 15%
- Final paper: 20%
- Final Quiz: 15%

Course Requirements

Participation in Class and Oral Presentation:
Active participation in class is of fundamental importance. Students should therefore complete the required reading before each class, attend every week, and be active participants in discussion. Student’s participation will be evaluated on the basis of its quality and thoughtfulness, not on its quantity.

Oral Presentation
Each student must present orally, to the class, one of the requested readings. The presentation is expected to highlight the main ideas conveyed by the author of the requested reading, and include a comparison of the different approaches to the historical questions addressed by the reading. The course’s oral presentations are designed to help develop skills to present ideas clearly and effectively in oral form.

Quizzes and Midterm Exam:
All students must take a quiz and a Midterm examination. Quizzes will focus on the topics covered in the lectures. The Midterm exam will focus on the topics covered in the lectures, as well as on the first half of the required readings. The exam is comprised by two essay-questions. When preparing themselves to the exams, students are expected to consult books and articles outside of those used in class with the goal of exploring in depth the major themes of the class.

Final Paper:
Each student will write a 2000 word paper to submit in class as a hard copy (font size: 12; line spacing: 1.5). The Final Paper will be based on the oral presentation.

Attendance
CIEE students are required to attend all classes. Absences are not allowed. If a student is sick, she/he must inform the instructor and provide a doctor’s note to the Resident Director. Half a point will be subtracted to the student’s final grade if she/he misses 5 hours of classes. A point will be subtracted to the final grade if a student misses 6 hours of classes.
Two points will be subtracted to the student’s final grade if she/he missed 7 hours of classes. The student who misses more than 7 hours of classes will fail the course.

**Out-of-Classroom Learning Experience**
This course features one out-of-class learning experience: a visit to the Belém neighborhood, which displays many buildings and monuments related to the Portuguese colonial past.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Session 1** – Introduction to the course. General outline of the Portuguese history (late medieval and early modern periods).
**Required reading:** DISNEY, 2007, pp. 283-313.

**Session 2** – The main stages of the Portuguese expansion in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean.
**Required reading:** RUSSELL-WOOD, 1992, pp. 1-57.

**Week 2**

**Session 1** – Africa, Asia and America at the time of the European conquest.

**Session 2** – The theological-juridical status of the conquered lands and peoples.
**Required reading:** MARCOCCI, 2014 pp. 473-494.

**Week 3**

**Session 1** – Developing a European-type administration in Asia, America, and Africa.
**Required reading:** SUBRAHMANYAM, 1993, pp. 55-79.

**Session 2** – Field trip to the Belém area (4:00 pm).

**Session 3** – The Portuguese vice-royalty in India.
**MIDTERM QUIZ.**
**Required reading:** BETHENCOURT, 2007, pp. 197-222.

**Week 4**

**Session 1** – Asian, African, and Amerindian polities’ vis-à-vis the Portuguese rule: disruption, resistance and adaptation.
**Required reading:** HEYWOOD, 2009, pp. 86-111.

**Session 2** – The Portuguese conquest and colonization of South American lands: from the *Governo-geral* (1548) to 1581.
**Required reading:** METCALF, 2014, pp. 29-61.
Week 5

Session 1 – Environment and Colonial Rule (by Professor Cristina Brito, FCSH-UNL)

Session 2 – MIDTERM EXAM.

Week 6

Session 1 – The Portuguese in late sixteenth century Asia.
Required reading: SUBRAHMANYAM, 1993, pp. 80-106.

Session 2 – The Atlantic: sugar production and the trade of enslaved Africans.

Week 7

Session 1 – Colonial societies across the Portuguese Atlantic world: power, tensions, and conflicts.
Required reading: SCHWARTZ, 2011, pp. 147-164.

Week 8

Session 1 – Race and ethnic relations across the Portuguese empire.

Session 2 – The Portuguese empire and the Spanish Monarchy (1581-1640).
Required reading: BETHENCOURT, 2013, pp. 15-36.

Week 9

Session 1 – The Portuguese colonial rule in the second half of the seventeenth century.
Required readings: FLORES, 2015, pp. 271-296.

Session 2 – Women, gender and colonial rule across the Portuguese empire. Discussion of the film Vazante, directed by Daniela Thomas, 2017 (Brazil).
Required reading: COATES, 2001, pp. 120-140.

Week 10

Session 1 – Colonial experience and scientific practices across the Atlantic world: production and circulation of knowledge.
Required reading: NIETO OLARTE, 2013, pp. 141-158.

Session 2 – Resistance against the colonial rule in eighteenth century Brazil.
Required reading: HERZOG, 2015, pp. 70-133.

Week 11

Session 1 – Colonialism, identities and creolization.
Session 2 – The Portuguese colonial empire in the age of revolutions.  

Week 12

Session 1 – The independence of Brazil and the Second Portuguese Empire  
FINAL QUIZ.  
Required reading: SCHULZ, 2013, pp. 98-117.

Course materials

Readings


