ATA 581  
Power and Rule in Modern Society:  
Theories of Empire and Imperialism after the “Imperial Turn”  

Fall 2006  

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Monday 10:00-13:00  
Office Hrs: Monday 14-17, and by appointment  
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Course Description:  
This seminar introduces students to the range of theoretical and historical studies on imperialism and empire. During the last two decades the fate of the nation as a subject of disciplinary inquire has become uncertain and the nation has appeared as an inadequate analytical category for studying society and history. In the aftermath of the critiques of the nation there emerged a new literature that has constructed an image of empire as the manifestation of a politics of multi-culturalism, rule of law, and administrative decentralization and privatization. This new scholarship, with its institutional and legal reductionism, conceptualizes empire as if modern forms of empire could be isolated from everyday forms of capitalist domination, imperialism, and fascism. In this seminar we examine modern empires as forms of politics created in order to keep populations within the domain of capitalist market relations. We pay particular attention to conceptualize empire and imperial politics not as an effect of a structure but a political practice constituted in the everyday forms of capitalist domination.

Assignments:  
Weekly Readings: This seminar is organized around common readings as the basis for weekly discussions. Attendance and class participation are mandatory and counts 60% of the final grade.

Review Essay: Each student will write one review essay of at least 4000 words. In this essay students will provide critical assessment of a group of books and articles on a certain theme related to one of the discussion sessions in the course. In addition to assigned readings the review essay should be based on outside readings. Students should submit a paper topic and a bibliography during week 8. (40%)

Week I: Introduction:

Week II: Concepts in Question I:  


Week III-IV: Concepts in Question II:  

Week V: Colonialism, History, and Politics:  

Week VI-VII: Empires in Comparison:

Week VIII: Ottoman Imperialism/Orientalism?
Deringil, Selim. "'They Live in a State of Nomadism and Savagery': The Late Ottoman Empire and the Post-Colonial Debate." Comparative Studies in Society and History 45, no. 2 (2003): 311-42.

Week IX: Modernization Theory, Orientalism, and Empire:

Week X: Empires of Our Time I:

Week XI: Empires of Our Time II:

Week XII: Global Capitalism and Revival of American Imperialism:

Week XIII: Imperialism and Fascism: