



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Formal and Informal Colonialism and the EU's Neighbourhood: Power, Knowledge, Transformation

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

SAIFULLAYEU Anton & KRAIS Jakob

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

PASTOR VIDAL Pablo

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This unit examines colonial tenets and practices and how they have been applied. It aims to help you understand how the spectre of colonialism continues to shape current economic, geopolitical and social realities in the so-called European Union's 'neighbourhood' and beyond. The lectures engaging you with a variety of readings carefully selected to give a critical perspective on knowledge and power structures that underpin colonialism and coloniality as a way of thinking and performative practices. The linkages between colonialism and coloniality will be examined by parsing the post-WWII decolonisation process and how colonialism metamorphosised into long-standing hieratical power relations that permeate the present reality in this constructed 'neighbourhood' in particular and globally. In this sense, the unit will give you a deeper understanding of forms and grades of colonialism. Overall, the unit's learning material and assignments seek to equip you with the conceptual and empirical knowledge and assist you develop your analytical and critical skills. Rather than being a recipient, the unit challenges your posture and gaze and allow you to engage in the contemporary discourse on de/coloniality and the search for pathways for freedom, justice and dignity.

As far as the EU's 'Southern Neighbourhood' is concerned, the unit will address the history of European colonial expansion into North Africa and the Mediterranean region as well as resistance against it. It will shed light on forms of foreign domination and decolonisation. Furthermore, we will discuss the cultural and epistemic side of colonialism, with a special focus on Orientalist discourse. Finally, the legacies of Europe's colonial history in the region will be examined.

The Eastern Neighborhood section will thoroughly examine the case of Russian-Soviet colonialism. It will provide a historical and cultural analysis of Russian-Soviet colonialism, exploring its various forms and functions in the post-colonial era. The discussion will encompass the political, cultural, and economic aspects of the Russian colonial model within the former Soviet Union. Additionally, we will

delve into specific cultural and orientalist projects from the Soviet era, as well as contemporary Russian political and cultural discourse.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Acquire in-depth historical and political understanding of colonialism and coloniality.
- Acquire conceptual and empirical knowledge of the present-day effects of colonialism in general and the EU's 'neighbourhood' in particular.
- Understanding of colonial structures of power and knowledge
- Ability to analyse relevant texts and evidence in the essay and oral presentation.
- Self-motivation, teamwork and oral engagement
- Analytical and critical skills
- Capacity to construct and orally present arguments
- Ability to design and write a well-organised academic essay

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Interactive lectures and discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The final mark for the course will be based on the following:

- 50% closed-book, in-person, digital written exam. 2 essay questions with access to specific materials provided by the professors. Word count: 800 – 1200 words.
- 40% Group oral presentation (15min) followed by Q&A moderated by students (for the presentation students are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation).
- Class participation 10%. Depending on the number of participants, class participation element may be suppressed, with 10% of the final mark redistributed.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e., exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

Lecture 1: What is Colonialism?

Lecture 2: Colonialism in North Africa and the Mediterranean I: Occupation and Resistance

Lecture 3: Colonialism in North Africa and the Mediterranean II: Forms of Domination and Decolonisation

Lecture 4: Orientalism: Culture, Knowledge, Race and Imperialism

Lecture 5: Legacies of Colonialism and Informal Empire in Europe's 'Southern Neighbourhood'

Lecture 6: Russian (Soviet) colonialism: Geography and its Types

Lecture 7: Practical Orientalism: The Definition of Otherness within Russian (Soviet) Colonialism

Lecture 8: Anti-colonial Deception: Soviet Soft Power and the Global South

Lecture 9: Russian (Soviet) Internal Colonialism: Forms of Subordination and Assimilation

Lecture 10: Globalism, revanchism, decolonization. The future of (Russian) colonialism in the 21st century, the future of the region.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Please refer to course outline.