HIST 276 - Spain and the Pacific World, 1571-1898

Instructor: Edward Melillo
Office Hours (Rice 307):
Tuesday: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Fall 2007
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This course explores the historical relationship between the Spanish Empire and the peoples and environments of the Pacific Ocean region. We will begin in 1571 with the opening of Manila as a Spanish trading port and end in 1898 with the Spanish-American War. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss the trans-Pacific silver and silk trades, the function of Catholic missionaries in shaping the Pacific World, environmental exchanges between the Americas and Asia, indigenous resistance to imperialism, and the role of Pacific peoples in the development of the world economy.

Format: Our class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. in Room A254 on the second floor of the Science Center. Class attendance is mandatory; class participation comprises 25% of your final grade.

Assignments:
• Reading Responses: Prior to each of our Thursday sessions, you will write a response to Tuesday’s assigned readings. It is your responsibility to bring a printed copy of your response to our Thursday class. We will use these responses as the basis for our discussion. I will grade these assignments and return them to you the following week. Topics for the first five weeks of these responses appear

Nineteenth-century photograph of a Filipino-Spanish mestizo family
in the syllabus. I will assign topics for the remaining weeks as the semester progresses.

- **Short Papers:** During the term, you will write two five-page short papers. The first short paper is due at the end of class on Thursday, October 18. The second short paper is due at the end of class on Tuesday, November 20. Details of both assignments appear below.

- **Map Quiz:** In class on Thursday, September 27, I will ask you to fill in the names of countries, territories, and key cities on a blank map of the Pacific region. Several weeks prior to the quiz, I will provide you with a detailed map from which to study.

- **Final Exam:** The final exam will cover the material from my lectures, our readings, and our class discussions. The exam will include: short identifications of visual images, a “web diagram” of trans-Pacific connections, and two essay questions.

- **Class Discussions:** This course will only be as good as you are willing to make it. All of us will come to class ready to discuss the material from the assigned readings.

**Grading:** Your grade for the semester will depend upon the following components:

- Written work (reading responses and short papers): 50%
- Map quiz: 5%
- Final exam: 20%
- Class participation: 25%

**Honor Code:** The Oberlin community takes its honor code very seriously. You should be familiar with the honor code, which is available for download at:
http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-reg.html

It is crucial that you write and sign the honor code on all work you hand in for this class. The Honor Code reads: “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code on this assignment.”

**Required Texts:** The only text that you need to purchase for this course is Henry Kamen, *Empire: How Spain Became a World Power, 1492-1763* (New York: HarperCollins, 2004). Assigned readings from this book appear below as “Kamen.” Unless I hand them out in class, all other readings will be available on Blackboard as scanned texts or as links to online articles. Readings for each week rarely exceed 200 pages.
Schedule:

**Week 1: “‘Rounding the Horn’ – Spain and the Pacific World”**

- **Tuesday, September 4:**
  - Read the *Preface* to Kamen (pages xxi-xxviii).
  - For Thursday’s class, write a summary of Kamen’s thesis (or theses) in which you also explain how his approach to Spanish history differs from those of the other historians whose work he mentions. Keep your response to *six sentences or fewer*. I will be looking for three things: your ability to convey the essentials of a historical argument, your capacity for concision, and your aptitude as a writer. This assignment only requires eight pages of reading and six sentences of writing, yet a pithy summary of complex material can be quite difficult to compose. Make sure you leave time to tighten your prose.

- **Thursday, September 6:**

**Week 2: “The Grammar of Conquest: Spanish Empire in the 16th Century”**

- **Tuesday, September 11:**
  - “Kamen,” Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-93)
  - In *no more than eight sentences*, explain and elaborate upon O.H.K. Spate’s statement, “Neither the intent nor the achievement of Magellan’s voyage was to demonstrate that the earth was a globe...” As always, you may use the other course readings and your lecture notes when preparing your response.

- **Thursday, September 13:**
  - “Kamen,” Chapters 3-4 (pp. 95-195)

**Week 3: “Introducing the Americas: The Manila Galleon Trade”**

- **Tuesday, September 18:**
    [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mgtr/hd_mgtr.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mgtr/hd_mgtr.htm)
    [http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/66april/galleon.htm](http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/66april/galleon.htm)
  - “Kamen,” Chapter 5 (pp. 197-237)
  - For Thursday’s class, write a one-page, double-spaced summary of the exchanges between the Americas and Asia that occurred via the Manila Galleon. Feel free to mention plants, animals, people, commodities, cultural elements, etc. *This assignment does not require outside research.* Your responses should be based upon notes from the course readings, the lectures, and our class discussions. At the end of your summary, please include a question about the Manila Galleon trade that you feel was unanswered in class.

- **Thursday, September 20:**
  - Henry F. Diaz and Susan Bacon “Manila Galleon Trades,” *National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration* – Physical Sciences Division Research Spotlight Article, available at:  
  - David Irving, “Musical politics of empire: the loa in 18th-century Manila” *Early Music* vol. 32, no. 3 (August 2004), pp. 384-402. Available at:  
    [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/early_music/v032/32.3irving.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/early_music/v032/32.3irving.html)
**Week 4: “The Mountain that Eats Men: Potosí”**

- **Tuesday, September 25:**
    [http://www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/potosi/](http://www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/potosi/)
  - For next Thursday’s class, write *eight sentences* on one of the following topics:
    1) Discuss the role(s) played by women in shaping the urban economy of colonial Potosí.
    - or -
    2) Explain the general workings of the *mita* system.

- **Thursday, September 27: Map Quiz in class**
  - Stuart B. Schwartz, “Cities of Empire: Mexico and Bahia in the Sixteenth Century,” *Journal of Inter-American Studies*, vol. 11, no. 4. (October 1969), pp. 616-637. Available at: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0885-3118%28196910%2911%3A4%3C616%3ACOEMAB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-2](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0885-3118%28196910%2911%3A4%3C616%3ACOEMAB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-2)

- **Tuesday, October 2:**
  - For Thursday’s class, write a summary of Weber’s thesis (or theses) in which you explain his focus on *indios no sometidos*. Your reply should not exceed one double-spaced page in length. Keep your response concise, but make sure to make it thorough.

- **Thursday, October 4:**

Week 6: “All Mixed Up – Mestizaje y Castas”

- **Tuesday, October 9:**

- **Thursday, October 11:**
  - “Kamen,” Chapters 6-8 (pp. 239-379)
Week 7: “Migrant Ecologies: Science and Environmental Exchange in the Pacific”

- Tuesday, October 16:

- Thursday, October 18:
  - First short paper due at the end of class. In *no more than five double-spaced pages*, write about the connections between *two cultures or societies* that we have studied so far in this course. Explain the ways in which this pairing was produced by or altered by the Spanish presence in the Pacific World. Feel free to mention biological, commercial, artistic, military, or religious aspects of this encounter. This is not a research paper. In order to complete this assignment, you do not need to go beyond the readings assigned for this course.

  - Saturday, Oct. 20 Fall Recess Begins -
Week 8: “Straddling the Continent”
- **Tuesday, October 30:** Kamen, Chapters 9-11 (pp. 381-512)
- **Thursday, November 1:**

Week 9: “Let Heads Roll: The Spanish Legacy in California”
- **Tuesday, November 6:**
  - Richard Henry Dana, Jr., *Two Years Before the Mast* (reprint; Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1911), pp. 82-120.
- **Thursday, November 8:**
  - María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, *Conflicts of Interest: The Letters of María Amparo Ruiz de Burton*, eds. Rosaura Sánchez and Beatrice Pita (Houston: Arte Público Press, 2003), excerpts TBA.
Week 10: “Losing Control: Spain’s Disappearing Empire”

- **Tuesday, November 13:**

- **Thursday, November 15:**

Week 11: “The Violent Pacific”

- **Tuesday, November 20:**
  - **Second short paper due.** In *no more than five double-spaced pages*, develop your own argument about the role(s) of violence in the making of Spain’s Pacific Empire. This is not a research paper. To complete this assignment, you do not need to read materials beyond those assigned in the syllabus.
  - In-class viewing of film: “U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848” (PBS Films, 1998)

- **Thursday, November 22:** *Thanksgiving Day*
**Week 12: “Tagalog, Spanish, and English in the Philippines”**

- **Tuesday, November 27:**
  - Vicente L. Rafael, “Nationalism, Imagery, and the Filipino Intelligentsia in the Nineteenth Century,” *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 16, no. 3 (Spring, 1990), pp. 591-611. Available at:
    - [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0093-1896%281990021%2916%3A3%5C591%5C3ANINTFI%5C3E2%5C0%5C0%5C3B2-7](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0093-1896%281990021%2916%3A3%5C591%5C3ANINTFI%5C3E2%5C0%5C0%5C3B2-7)
  - In-class viewing of excerpts from film: Kidlat Tahimik’s “Mababangong Bangungot,” [Perfumed Nightmare] (Philippines, 1977)

- **Thursday, November 29:**
  - The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures:
    - [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sawhtml/sawhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sawhtml/sawhome.html)
Week 13: “Imagined Empires, Novel Cartographies”

- **Tuesday, December 4:**

- **Thursday, December 6:**
  - Margaret Jolly, “Imagining Oceania: Indigenous and Foreign Representations of a Sea of Islands,” *The Contemporary Pacific*, vol. 19, no. 2 (Fall 2007), pp. 508-545. Available at: [http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/contemporary_pacific/v019/19.2jolly.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/contemporary_pacific/v019/19.2jolly.html)

Week 14 “Retrospective: A Linguistic Utopia?”

- **Tuesday, December 11:**

- **Thursday, December 13:** Review for final exam.