This course covers a pivotal era in world history—perhaps the most transformative in the human experience. It provides broad and in-depth coverage of the Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch empires which, taken together, lay the basis for the British and French empires that emerged in their wake. Two significant moments in world history frame the course: the intensification of African-Portuguese interactions along the West African coast in the early 1400s and the French and Haitian Revolutions of the late 1700s. Many of the ideas, institutions, exchanges, and forces that have shaped the world we know today reached an apogee in this period: including plantation slavery; the reliance on the sea for warfare, exploration, and imperial dominance; the rise of racist ideologies and social divisions; the global mission of Christian conversion; and the dissemination of a “scientific” world view. The latter would alter societal perceptions globally of the relationships among humans, animals and the natural world, and between humans and the cosmos. Significant portions of the course are also devoted to the pivotal roles played by women, pirates and freebooters, and indigenous peoples on continents and in archipelagos around the world. No prior coursework or knowledge of the early modern period is required.

１/２２　Introduction: The World as of 1450 and the Drama of Global Empire

１/２４　Unknown Waters: Motives for Overseas Expansion
Required Reading: Carlo Cipolla, Guns, Sails and Empires, 1-45.

１/２９　Means for Exploration, Conquest, and Migration
Required Reading: Cipolla, Guns, Sails, and Empires, 45-90.

１/３１　Discussion: Science, Technological Innovation, and Global Transformations
Required Reading: Lynn White, Jr., “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis.”
Carolyn Merchant, “Dominion over Nature.”
2/5 Perils and Strategy on the High Seas  Film Excerpt  “1492”
Required Reading:  J.H. Parry, “Technical Problems and Solutions.”

2/7 Forts, Ports, Passes, and the Conquest of an Ocean
Required Reading:  Michael Adas, “The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans.”

2/12 The Prize: Trade and Conversion in China
Required Reading:  Cipolla, Guns, Sails, and Empires, 90-124.
Adas, “Ming China: A Mission Refused”

2/14 Opening (and Closing): Japan  Film Excerpt  “Ran”
Required Reading:  Adas, “Fending Off the West: Japan’s Reunification and the First Challenge”

2/19 Discussion: Why Europe? And Why not Ming China or the Ottomans?
Required Reading:  Cipolla, Guns, Sails, and Empires, 124-148.

2/21 Clash of Worlds: Aztecs, Incas, and Spaniards
Required Reading:  Stuart B. Schwartz, “The Americas on the Eve of Invasion.”
Bartolome de Las Casas, Devastation of the Indies, (selections).

2/26 The Nature of Empire: Plagues, Plants, and Environmental Degradation

2/28 A Settler Society: The Spanish in the Americas
Inga Clendinnen, “Crisis.”

3/4 Evening Session: FILM: Yo la peor de todas (I the Worst of All)
Time and Place: TBA

3/6 Midterm Exam
No required reading; students should prepare for the midterm exam.

3/11 Dutch Global Power and the Portuguese Dilemma
Required Reading:  C.R. Boxer, “Fort and Factory.”

3/13 From Brazil to Japan: The Dutch Seaborne Empire
Required Reading:  Jean Taylor, “The Web of Colonial Society.”

SPRING BREAK (5/15-5/23)

3/25 West Africa and the Making of an African Diaspora  Film Excerpt  “Amistad”
Required Reading:  John K. Thornton, “Process of Enslavement and the Slave Trade.”
3/27  Earth and Fire: The Growth and Development of Plantation Societies  
   **Required Reading:** David Watts, “Early Hispanic New World Agriculture.”

4/1  **Discussion:** Why slaves? Why Africans? Why Racism?  
   **Required Reading:** Eric Williams, “The Origin of Negro Slavery.”  
   George Frederickson, “Toward a Social Interpretation of Slavery.”  
   Michael Adas, “First Hierarchies of Humankind.”

4/3  In Brazil: Between God and Grindstone  
   **Required Reading:** Mary Karasch, “Zumbi of Palmares.”

4/8 North America: Contested Ground  
   **Film Excerpt** “Black Robe”  
   **Required Reading:** William Cronin, *Changes in the Land.*

4/10 **Discussion:** Changes in the Land: English and Indians in the New World  
   **Required Reading:** Finish Cronin.

4/15  At Full Steam: Planters, Smugglers, and an Atlantic Society  
   **Required Reading:** Marcus Rediker, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea,*  
   10-14, 153-179, 254-269.

4/17  Toward Globalization: Commodities, Consumption, and Changing Rhythms of Life  
   **Required Reading:** Eric Williams, “British Commerce and the Triangular Trade.”  
   K. Pomeranz and S. Topik, “The Economic Culture of Drugs.”

4/22  **Discussion:** On the Margins? Women and Empire  
   **Required Reading:** George Brooks, “The Signares of St. Louis and Gorée.”  
   Muriel Nazzari, “Marriage and Concubinage in Colonial Brazil.”  

4/24  The First World Wars  
   **Required Reading:** Frank McLynn, 1759, “Introduction” and “Epilogue.”

4/29  Empires Strike Back: Haiti, Revolution, and the Remaking of the Atlantic  
   **Required Reading:** John K. Thornton, “African Soldiers in the Haitian Revolution.”  
   Laurent Dubois, “Epilogue” from *Avengers of the New World.*

5/1  Toward High Colonialism: Industrialism and Imperialism  
   **No required reading; students should prepare for the final exam.**
Lectures and Readings
Lectures and readings are intended to challenge and/or support one another. One is not a substitute for the other. If you wish to do well in the course it is imperative that you attend class regularly and keep up with the reading. The readings are diverse and include a mix of broad overviews and essays that interpret key events and historical processes in light of more recent historical and theoretical scholarship.

Discussions
Although all classes will include questions and some discussion, the sessions indicated on the syllabus will be devoted primarily to full class discussion. These sessions will be focused on major debates, critical issues, and broader patterns and themes of the course. We will provide questions in advance of each discussion session to orient your reading and prepare you to participate as fully as possible.

Films, Maps and Images
Films make their way into the course in several places. They illustrate the high drama, intense emotion, and profound contradictions inherent in history—both in its making and in its understanding. Most class sessions will feature power point presentations that will provide visual images illustrating the materials covered in the lectures. Most of these are drawn from the eras, locales, and events covered in the course, and they are intended to work in much the same way as the films.

Assignments and Evaluation
Required assignments for the course include:

1) The writing of a short paper (30%) of between 6 to 8 pages on a topic relating to materials covered in the course of particular interest to each student and chosen in consultation with the instructors.

2) Completion of an in-class midterm (25%) and a cumulative in-class final exam (35%).

3) General preparedness as indicated by 3 short quizzes (10% total) spread over the semester and given during discussion sessions.

4) Although participation in the discussion sessions is not obligatory, extra credit will be given to those students who contribute to class deliberations.

Required Readings
Readings are of two types:

1) Two books are required and are available through the campus bookstore or various online vendors:

2) All other readings are available online through the RU Libraries electronic reserve website: http://www.iris.rutgers.edu/uhtbin/cgiisrsi/0/0/0/36/485/X/BLASTOFF