His 401.01
Empire and Identity in Euro-America, 1660-1945

Satisfies: WRTD, SPK, EXP+

Wednesday, 2:40-5:35pm

Professor Kathleen Wilson

This upper-division research seminar will provide students the opportunity to study and do research on European and American empires in the modern period. The role of empires, broadly conceived, from the early modern to the modern periods in producing wars, law, status, identity and both the strategies and theatre of state power will be foregrounded, and topics in primary and secondary sources will include: how empires of expansion, trade and settlement were made and contested, including forms of empire of indigenous peoples within the American and European nations; how empire engineered new epistemologies and ways of knowing and representing; how the ideologies of imperialism justified gender, class and political arrangements both at home and abroad; and how ‘colonized peoples’ contested, subverted and otherwise foiled global strategies with local designs. Students will do primary research in digital and other primary sources, including literature, drama, painting and film, and write an original 15-page paper on a topic of their choice that engages with an aspect of empire and identity in this period.