

Dr. Chuck Upchurch
Seminar: British Empire
T 12-3pm

This course is designed to provide graduate students with a foundation in some of the central problems and historiographical debates surrounding the study of the British Empire. As the single most dynamic area within British Studies at present, a great deal of excellent new work has taken on the challenge of thinking ‘with and through’ the empire. This class will expose students to some of the best of that recent scholarship, with readings that represent a range of methodological approaches and styles of writing. We will evaluate both theoretical and narrative works, as well as economic, social, political, military, gender, and cultural histories, in order to appreciate which forms of analysis are best suited to particular problems within the study of empire. Students will produce an original research paper for the class. A significant amount of time will be spent workshopping student research papers, and identifying which theoretical frameworks or methodological approaches might best enhance the analysis of the sources and questions. Students are free to work with the primary source material central to their thesis or dissertation research, even if it is not related to the British Empire, so long as it addresses themes relevant to the class (such as French, Russian, or American imperialism).