HST 495/595: Comparative World History: Empires of Knowledge

COURSE FLYER

MTWR 1030-1250
June 22 – July 19
Prof. Beyler

Our theme this term is empires of knowledge. We will start by comparing how the organization of knowledge and the organization of society are related in several historical world civilizations. We will then explore what happens to systems of knowledge when diverse cultures encounter each other—e.g., the European-American encounter and Japanese interactions with China and Europe. Finally, we will explore ways in which the development of scientific disciplines has served as a tool of empire-building and vice versa, in fields ranging from anthropology to biology to physics.

Recommended prerequisite: upper-division standing or consent of instructor.