SYNOPSIS
Hundreds of years before the Internet, cell phones, and GIS, European empires linked peoples around the world through conquest, trade, and migration. This course provides an overview of European overseas expansion from the end of the Middle Ages to the beginning of the eighteenth century. We will discuss the creation of imperial spheres, the development of colonial societies, and the impact of European expansion on people and cultures worldwide.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

• identify key moments in the development of European expansion
• identify the major process that shaped the development of early modern European empires
• understand differences and similarities across imperial spheres and colonies in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean basins
• think comparatively and critically about broad historical processes across time and place

READINGS
The following book is required and can be purchased at the UNCG bookstore or online:
The book is also on reserve at the library circulation desk.
Von Sivers, *Patterns in World History* 2:4 (To be handed out in class. Readings to be assigned.)
Weekly handouts will include primary documents and maps.
Always bring the week’s readings and handouts to class.

ASSESSMENT
In-class unit tests: 75% (3 tests; 25% each)
Final exam: 25% (cumulative)


***NOTE: FINAL EXAM TO BE SCHEDULED BY THE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR***
COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute students’ acceptance of UNCG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Make sure you read and understand the policy, which is available at: http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/. If you have any questions about any aspect of this policy, including what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the professor.

Attendance: Attendance is expected. Students who must miss class due to illness or emergency should notify the professor, and consult with fellow students to get up to speed. Students who repeatedly miss class will have difficulty meeting minimum course requirements. In a crisis or emergency situation, including extended illness, please contact the Dean of Students. (See below.)

Class Etiquette: A classroom is a communal space where we all gather for a brief period to pursue a common goal via group interactions. You are expected to focus exclusively on our tasks at all times. Please do not bring food unless you have enough to share with everyone. You are welcome to bring an individual drink. Cell phones should be turned off and laptops should be used only for note-taking. If you need to use your phone for an emergency call or text please leave the room to do so.

Communication: We will communicate in this course via the Blackboard site and our UNCG e-mail accounts. Check both regularly. The Course Documents sections of Blackboard will have copies of the syllabus, assignments, etc. The best way to contact the professor is via e-mail (lmrupert@uncg.edu). You should expect to hear back within 24 hours, unless: 1) it is the weekend; 2) you receive an automatic “out of office” reply. It is your responsibility to make sure that the communication is successful and that all material gets in on time.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Dean of Students (http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/; tel: 45514): Supports and advocates for students in crisis, including family emergencies, extended illness, trauma, etc.

Office of Disability Services (http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/; tel: 45440): Students who have documented disabilities that require special consideration and/or accommodation should register with this office and bring the required paperwork to the professor during the first week of class so we can make the necessary adjustments. No accommodations can be made without this paperwork.

Office of Information Technology (http://www.its.uncg.edu, tel: 6-TECH): Your source for all tech problems, including computer malfunctions, issues with Blackboard, etc. The professor cannot help you with any of these!

University Writing Center (www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/; tel: 43125): An excellent place to get help with paper structure, grammar, style, etc.
SCHEDULE OF UNIT THEMES AND READINGS

UNIT 1: THE FIRST OVERSEA EMPIRES: SPAIN AND PORTUGAL
Week 1 (August 23 & 25): Europe and the World, Prelude to Discovery
Reading: Parry, “Introduction: The Bounds of Christendom,” and “The Tools of the Explorers”

Week 2 (August 30 & September 1): Early Iberian Expansion: Portugal
Reading: Parry, “Christians and Spices”

Week 3 (September 6 & 8): Early Iberian Expansion: Spain
Reading: Parry, “The New World”

Week 4 (September 13 & 15): Comparative Empires: Portugal and Spain
Reading: “The Silver Empire”

Week 5 (September 20 & 22): Review and UNIT 1 TEST

UNIT 2: THE RISE OF COMPETING EMPIRES
Week 6 (September 27 & 29): Sixteenth Century Challengers in the Atlantic
Reading: Parry, “Fishermen, Explorers, and Slavers”

Week 7 (October 4 & 6): Sixteenth Century Challengers in the Indian Ocean
Reading: Parry, “The Struggle for Eastern Trade”

***** NO CLASS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11: FALL BREAK *****

Week 8 (October 13): Rise of the English
Reading: Parry, “The English Plantations”

Week 9 (October 18 & 20): Imperial Rivalries
Reading: “Rival Empires in America”

Week 10 (October 25 & 27): Review and Unit 2 Test

UNIT 3: EMPIRES AND COLONIES
Week 11 (November 1 & 3): Imperial Rivalries
Reading: Parry, “The Old Colonial System”

Week 12 (November 8 & 10): Commerce and Empires in the Indian Ocean
Reading: Parry, “Trade and Dominion in the East”

Week 13 (November 15 & 17): Plantations, Slavery, and the Slave Trade
Reading: Parry, “Slavery and the War for Trade”

Week 14 (November 22): Globalization and the New World Order

***** NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24: THANKSGIVING*****

Week 15 (November 29 & December 1): Review and Unit 3 test