

HIS 401.02

Senior Colloquium: Empire & Identity

Satisfies: EXP+, SPK, WRTD

Tuesdays, 3:30pm - 6:20pm

Professor Nurlan Kabdylkhak

This capstone research seminar examines the history of modern multiethnic empires, with a primary focus on the Russian empire, alongside case studies from the Ottoman empire and British India. The course traces the formation, expansion, and governance of these empires, highlighting the complex and often ambivalent relationships between imperial states and their diverse populations. Students will explore how empires balanced coercion and accommodation in their efforts to rule over multiethnic societies. Specific themes addressed in the course include: imperial strategies for managing ethnic and religious diversity, the role of minority intermediaries in sustaining imperial authority, the development of religious institutions under imperial rule, and inter-imperial connections. By engaging with recent scholarship on empires, students will gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics of empire and the legacies of multiethnic governance in the modern world.