Course Description
This seminar will revolve around four key conceptual frameworks frequently used by historians, and which are interlinked: modernity, globalization, imperialism, and colonialism. We will aim at getting a firm grip of what is meant by these concepts, and the academic debates revolving around them. At the end of the course, the student should feel comfortable in defining, interlinking, and putting into conscious use not only the key concepts but also their derivatives such ‘new imperialism’, ‘colonial modernity’, ‘informal imperialism’, ‘globalization as discourse’ and many others. Throughout the course, there will be an emphasis in making cross-cutting connections, and relating themes and concepts discussed in the prior weeks with those most recently discussed in class.

Doctorate and masters students only. Students of history, political science/international relations, and sociology are encouraged to apply.

Grading
Class attendance and participation in discussions based on weekly readings: 20%
Take-home midterm exam: 30%
Take-home final: 50%

Course Requirements
This is a seminar with rather dense reading assignments. You should make time for a reading of roughly 100-120 pages each week. Meticulous attention will be paid to your active participation in the discussions in class.

You will present at least two of the thirteen weeks’ readings critically in class, in not more than 20 minutes. If you miss a class, you will hand in a 1500-word synopsis of the readings of the week you missed, due the following week. You will participate in class discussions; expect to be interrogated if you habitually don’t. Do not expect to get the top grade even if your exam results are excellent, unless you participate in the discussions or hand in the synopsis of the week you have missed on time.

Take-home exams will be distributed and collected in the respective dates given below in the schedule.

The readings will be made available under password protection.
**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (25 September): Modernity I – Introduction, and the “great divergence” debate**


Stable URL: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4995%281998%2941%3A3%3C285%3ATGHO%22%3E2.0.CO%3B2-S](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4995%281998%2941%3A3%3C285%3ATGHO%22%3E2.0.CO%3B2-S)


Stable URL: [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4995%281998%2941%3A3%3C285%3ATGHO%22A%3E2.0.CO%3B2-W](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4995%281998%2941%3A3%3C285%3ATGHO%22A%3E2.0.CO%3B2-W)


(The last two readings have been assigned as they provide a good summary of the “great divergence” debate. Pay more attention to this than the intricacies of Michael Mann’s theory. It has implications for conceptualizations of modernity.)

**Week 2 (2 October) : Modernity II – Interpretations and approaches**


**Week 3 (9 October): Capitalism and modernity I**


2
**Week 4 (23 October): Capitalism and modernity II**

Berman, Marshall, *All that is solid melts into air: The experience of modernity*, new ed. (London and New York: Verso, 2010 (first publ. 1982)) pp. 87-129 (‘All that is solid melts into air’)


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**Week 5 (30 October): Modernity and the everyday**

*(Take-home questions for the midterm exam will be distributed)*


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**Week 6 (6 November): Imperialism I: “Metropolitan” approaches**


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**Week 7 (13 November): Imperialism: “Peripheral” approaches**

*(Take-home exams will be collected)*


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**Week 8 (20 November): Imperialism: Global approaches and beyond**


**Week 9 (27 November): Globalization – Introductory Texts**


**Week 10 (4 December): Globalization – The debate**


**Week 11 (11 December): Colonialism - Introduction**


**Week 12 (18 December): Colonialism and modernity**


Week 13 (25 December): Recent approaches: Globalization applied to national histories; empire as state independent of modernity
(Take-home final exam questions will be distributed)
Conrad, Sebastian, *Globalisation and the Nation in Imperial Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 27-76


TAKE-HOME FINALS DUE: Tuesday, 21 JANUARY, 12:00 noon.