HST 90. British Empire and American Nation, from the Revolution to Pearl Harbor.

A foundation seminar which will use the transatlantic cultural and political history of the British Empire and the United States to examine ways historians pose questions, search for evidence, and create a narrative. The course will emphasize contrasting British and American perspectives of each other in evolving what would become their “special relationship.” Graded course requirements will include active participation in weekly discussions and four short (ca 5pp) papers. There are no prerequisites; the course is open to any undergraduate with an interest in exploring this topic.

For History majors, the course will fulfill the foundation seminar requirement, as well as one of the following field requirements: Transregional, US, or European history. For IR majors, the course will fulfill TC1A: History [Europe], TC6B: History [Empire /Colonization /Globalization], and TC5: US in World Affairs.

Required Readings [in addition to a variety of short readings on Tisch Reserve and Trunk].

- Howard Temperley, BRITAIN AND AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE (chs. 1-7).
- Amanda Foreman, A WORLD ON FIRE.
- Andrew Roberts, A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES SINCE 1900 (chs. 1-8).
- Bernard Porter, EMPIRE AND SUPEREMPIRE (chs. 1-2).
- Charles Dickens, AMERICAN NOTES (1842).

Sessions.

1. Introduction.

2. After the Revolution.

3. War Again, and the Foundation Myths of the Early American Nation.


5. Boston Brahmins and Irish immigrants.

6. Transatlantic Popular culture: Novels and Minstrels.


8. Late-19th century imperialisms: Latin America and the Pacific.

9. Trans-Atlantic Society in the age of the steam ship: American Heiresses and British Milords.

10. The First World War.
11. Jazz and Hollywood: American popular culture crosses the Atlantic

12. Two economies and the Great Depression.

13. The Coming Storm.