

LA337-15 Corporations, Law, and Colonialism

26/27

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Maximilien Zahnd

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module proposes to explore the relationship between corporations, law, and colonialism. Specifically, it seeks to unpack the ways in which corporations both accompanied and reinforced colonialism and what role the law played in that history. While the module will predominantly discuss colonialism's historical dimension, it also endeavors to illuminate colonialism's ongoing legacies through the lens of corporate capitalism. The module will first examine the global history of colonialism. It will then turn to the colonial history of the United States as a case study. In doing so, it will examine the impacts of corporations upon Native American tribes.

Module aims

The module has three broad aims. First, it endeavors to offer students a critical way to rethink the corporate form, namely through the lens of colonialism, both historically and presently. Second, it will introduce students to a wide range of primary sources, including statutes, treaties, official correspondence, cases, etc. In doing so, students will learn to critically read and analyze these sources through the lens of colonialism. Third and last, the module will shed light on how corporations have played a pivotal role in the rise and spread of colonialism. The module will draw on several disciplines (e.g., history, law, anthropology, geography, Native American and

Indigenous studies, etc.) and viewpoints to underscore corporate capitalism's broad, profound, and long-lasting impact. Particular attention will be paid to the case of Native American tribes.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

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The use of corporations to colonize distant places: Why and how.

The relationship between corporations and the state.

The law's role in the spread of corporate capitalism.

Taxation (including tax havens), colonialism, and corporations.

Colonization, corporations, and Native American tribes.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad and interdisciplinary knowledge of corporations' role in global and local colonial histories.
- Critically evaluate the law's role in cementing corporate capitalism and colonial impact.
- Undertake interdisciplinary research and critically read complex primary sources through the lens of colonialism.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the key and emerging secondary sources on the topic.
- Critically revisit the core theories of the corporate form.
- Develop an awareness of corporations' impact upon Native American tribes.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Assessment will be an in-person, handwritten exam covering one or more of the module's topics.

Interdisciplinary

The module will draw on several disciplines: history, law, anthropology, geography, Native American and Indigenous studies. Thus, students will be free to choose how to write the essay and draw on a vast array of methodologies, sources, and writing styles.

Subject specific skills

Student will:

1. Know the core historiography on colonialism and corporations.
2. Be able to examine the corporate form critically (and discuss the related core theories) through the lens of colonialism.
3. Be able to conduct interdisciplinary and historical research on the topics taught in the module.
4. Acquire interdisciplinary knowledge of the corporate dimension of colonialism globally and in the United States (and how the latter relates to the case of Native American tribes).
5. Read and analyse a wide variety of historical primary sources that discuss corporations and colonialism, either directly or not.
6. Know and discuss corporations' role in colonial history/ies.

Transferable skills

Students will:

1. Know how to read complex literature from several disciplines, which will enhance their reading and writing skills.
 2. Be used to think critically, specifically in the context of topics (that is, corporations) that do not seem, at first glance, to be connected to broader racial and socio-cultural issues. This will contribute to Warwick's law in context ethos. It will also enhance their critical thinking skills.
 3. Be able to conduct independent research.
 4. Hone their analytical skills by learning to resituate local phenomena within their broader environment and by learning to look for and identify global processes.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	4 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	125 hours 30 minutes (83%)
Assessment	2 hours 30 minutes (1%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading time for required and recommended readings. Preparation time for seminars.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group B

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Exam	100%	2 hours 30 minutes	No

This is an in-person, handwritten exam covering one or more of the module's topics.

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Individual written feedback and generic (cohort) feedback

[Past exam papers for LA337](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law
- Year 4 of ULAA-M131 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of ULAA-M135 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
- Year 4 of ULAA-M133 Undergraduate Law with French Law
- Year 4 of ULAA-M134 Undergraduate Law with German Law
- Year 3 of ULAA-M136 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law