This course examines the political, social, economic and cultural development of the Japanese empire, with attention to the dynamic exchange between metropolitan center and colonial periphery. Analysis of individual colonies and spheres of influence will emphasize both the diversity of imperial structures of rule and competing rationales for empire that complicated the coherence of the project as a whole. Additional topics include: theories of imperialism, settler colonialism, education, women’s roles, colonial literature, and the wartime ideology of empire.

Required texts: Required texts have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) as well as placed on reserve at Mudd Library.


All other readings are available on Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:
The course grade will be based on the following:

- Class participation: 35%
- Two 7-8 page papers: 20% each
- Responses & Presentations: 25%

Paper #1 will be due in class on Thursday, March 19 in-class and Paper #2 on Monday, May 11 at 4pm.

CLASS FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS:
Class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and absences will be recorded. Students are required to complete the assigned readings and come prepared to discuss the readings.

Assignments are due on (or before) the due date noted above. Only one extension will be granted per semester and must be requested during office hours before the due date of the paper. (Note: Requests for extensions may not be granted in all cases.) Late assignments will be reduced by one grade step per day. A paper due on Thursday, March
19 which is turned in on March 20, for example, will get a “B-” rather than the “B” it merited. A “B” paper turned in on March 21 will earn a “C+”, etc.

**Thursday Response Papers:** Students are required to write—six times throughout the course of the semester—a one-page response to the week’s readings. These do not need to be well-crafted essays, but rather should be focused around critical observations of the author’s argument or approach, points of comparison with other material from the course, and/or questions of fact or interpretation stimulated by the readings. Response papers will be collected and count toward the class participation component of assessment.

Note: Papers may be submitted by e-mail attachment by 11am on the Thursday on which they are due.

**Thursday Presentations:** Throughout the course of the semester, each student will be required to give two presentations of no more than 15 minutes each focused on a particular week’s readings. The presentations can mirror the format of a response paper, yet should be geared toward introducing questions for discussion to the class as a whole.

**Film Screening:** There will be a screening of “*The Bridge on the River Kwai*” by Director David Lean (1957) on Monday, April 20 at 7pm (location: TBA). The film will be discussed during lecture in conjunction with the readings for the week.

**Special Lecture:** On Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14, the Oberlin History Department will host a conference entitled, “The Unfinished Business of War and Revolution: Europe, 1918-1919.” Attendance at at least one panel is mandatory for all students in the course. Location: TBA.

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments. To declare your compliance with the code, please handwrite the following statement on every assignment at the time of submission: “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.” Then, please include your signature and the current date beneath the statement.

**Writing Assistance:** Students are encouraged to avail of the writing skills workshops offered by the staff of Student Academic Services (SAS) located in Peters 118.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 2:30 – 4pm and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
E-mail: Emer.ODwyer@oberlin.edu
PART 1: FRAMEWORKS

Week 1: Introduction and Historical Background
Feb. 3: Introduction and Course Overview

Week 2: Why Empire? Theories of Imperialism

Primary Sources:


PART 2: COLONIES

Week 3: Taiwan

Week 4: Korea: From Zone of Interest to Protectorate to Annexation, 1876-1910
Feb. 24: Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, chs. 4, 6, 7 (pp. 41-48; 69-100).


**Primary Sources:**


**Week 5: The Kwantung Leasehold and Railway Imperialism, 1905-1931**


**Primary Source:**


**Week 6: World War One as Turning Point**


**Primary Sources:**


March 12: No Class. *Assignment: Go to at least one panel of conference: “The Unfinished Business of War and Revolution: Europe, 1918-1919.”*
Week 7: Settler Colonialism in Korea

March 17: Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword*, chs. 8-9 (pp. 289-363).


*Paper #1 due on Thursday, March 19 in class.*

Spring Break

PART 3: STRUCTURES OF RULE

Week 8: Education and Ideologies


Week 9 Economies

April 7: Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, chs. 9-10 (pp. 122-55).


Week 10: Colonial Literatures


April 16: Kleeman, Faye Yuan. *Under an Imperial Sun: Japanese Colonial Literature of Taiwan and the South.* (2003): chs. 4 and 5 (pp.69-109) and ch. 7 (pp. 160-96).

Japan’s Empire, 1895-1945
Spring 2009

Primary Source:
Mark Twain. *King Leopold’s Soliloquy* (1905)
Download at: [http://diglib1.amnh.org/articles/kls/index.html](http://diglib1.amnh.org/articles/kls/index.html)

**PART 4: EMPIRE DURING WARTIME**

*Week 11: Manchukuo and the Beginnings of “Total Empire”*


*Week 12: Japan Leading Asia: Wartime Empire and Ideology*
*Monday, April 20: Film: The Bridge on the River Kwai. (1957)*


Primary Source:

*Week 13: Empire’s End*


*Paper #2 due on Monday, May 11 at 4pm.*