This course examines the political, social, and economic development of Japan’s 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: comparative colonialism, “imperial democracy,” education, women’s roles, resistance, and postwar repatriation. Enrollment Limit: 25

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 6-7 page papers: 20% each
- Final exam: 25%

Paper #1 will be due in class on Tue. March 11 and Paper #2 on Tues. May 6. The Final Examination is scheduled for Friday, May 16 from 7-9pm.

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 Tuesday, March 11 which is turned in on March 12, for example, will get a “B-” rather than the “B” it merited. A “B” paper turned in on March 13 will earn a “C+”, etc.

Tuesday Response Papers: A one-page response paper will be due every Tuesday, reflecting your response to the readings assigned for the week. 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: students may have two “free passes” for the semester exempting them from submission of a weekly response.

Thursday Presentations: Every Thursday, a pair of students will give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes focused on the week’s readings. The presentation can mirror the format of a response paper, yet should be geared toward introducing questions for discussion to the class as a whole.

Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments.

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: Tuesdays 4:30 – 5:30pm and Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
E-mail: Emer.O'Dwyer@oberlin.edu
PART 1: FRAMEWORKS

Week 1, Feb. 5 and 7: Introduction and Theories of Imperialism


Week 2, Feb. 12 and 14: Situating Japan’s Empire
Gordon, Andrew. A Modern History of Japan (2003): chs. 8, 10 (pp. 115-38; 161-81)


Week 3, Feb. 19 and 21: Why Empire?


Primary Source:

Week 4, Feb. 26 and 28: Acquisition and Administration, 1895-1914
Beasley, Japanese Imperialism, chs. 5-7.


**Week 5, March 4 and 6: World War One as Turning Point**


**Primary Sources:**


*Paper #1 due on Tuesday, March 11 in class.*

**PART 2: STRUCTURES OF RULE**

**Week 6, March 11 and 13: Economies**


**Week 7, March 18 and 20: Ideologies**


**Spring Break**

**Week 8, April 1: Education**  *No Class on Thursday, April 3.*


**Week 9, April 8 and 10: Settler Colonialism in Korea**

**PART 3: EMPIRE DURING WARTIME**

**Week 10, April 15 and 17: Manchukuo and the Beginnings of “Total Empire”**


**Week 11, April 22 and 24: Japan Leading Asia: Wartime Empire and Ideology**


Young, *Japan’s Total Empire*, ch. 8.
Week 12, April 29 and May 1: Colonial Modernity?


*Paper #2 due on Tuesday, May 6 in class.

PART 4: POSTWAR

Week 13, May 6 and 8: Repatriation, Decolonization, and Postcolonialism
Bruce Cumings, “Colonial Formations and Deformations: Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam,” in Duara, Decolonization, pp. 278-98.


Final Exam: 7-9pm on Friday, May 16.