

Spring 2008

History 287
Japan's Empire, 1895-1945

TuTh 3-4:20
King 321

Professor Emer O'Dwyer
Rice 308, Tel. 5-6708

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.

1. Beasley, W.G. *Japanese Imperialism 1894-1945*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.
2. Myers, Ramon H. and Mark R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987.
3. Duus, Peter. *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*. University of California Press, 1998.
4. Young, Louise. *Japan's Total Empire: Manchukuo and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism*. Berkeley: University of California, 1999.

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.

Special Lecture: On Wednesday, February 13, Consul General Shinotsuka Tamotsu, Consulate General of Japan in Detroit will give a talk entitled, "East Asia in Transition: Emerging China, Divided Korea, and the Changing Role of Japan." Time: 4:30pm. Location: Wilder 101.

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 4:30 – 5:30pm and Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
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PART 1: FRAMEWORKS

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

Fieldhouse, David. "Imperialism: An Historiographical Revision." *Economic History Review*, 14 (1961): 187-209. **JSTOR**

Mommsen, Wolfgang. *Theories of Imperialism*, chs. 1-3 (1980): 3-69.

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)

Beasley, W.G. "Explanations of Imperialism," and "Modernization and Imperialism" in *Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945* (1987): 1-13; 27-40.

Peattie, Mark. "Japanese Attitudes Toward Colonialism," in Myers, Ramon H. and Mark R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945* (1984): 80-127.

Schmid, Andre. "Colonialism and the Korea Problem in the Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article." *Journal of Asian Studies* (Nov. 2000): 951-76. **JSTOR**

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

Duus, Peter. *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910* (1995): Introduction.

Peattie, Mark. "The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945." *Cambridge History of Japan. Vol. 6, The Twentieth Century* (1988): 217-70.

Primary Source:

"Consequences of the Iwakura Mission: Saigō and Ōkubo on Korea," in *Sources of Japanese Tradition (SJT)*, Vol. 2, pp. 17-23.

Week 4, Feb. 26 and 28: Acquisition and Administration, 1895-1914

Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, chs. 5-7.

Ts'ai, Hui-yu Caroline, "Shaping Administration in Colonial Taiwan, 1895-1945," in *Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945* (2006): 97-111.

Kim, Han-kyo. "The Japanese Colonial Administration in Korea: An Overview," in Andrew Nahm, ed. *Korea under Japanese Colonial Rule* (1973): 41-53.

Myers, Ramon H. "Japanese Imperialism in Manchuria: the South Manchuria Railway Company, 1906-1933," in P. Duus, R.H. Myers, and M.R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937* (1989): 101-32.

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

Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, ch. 8.

Manela, Erez. "Imaging Woodrow Wilson in Asia," *AHR* Vol. 111, No. 5 (2006): 1322-51

Peattie, Mark. "The Nan-yō in Myers, Ramon H. and Mark R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, pp. 172-210.

Primary Sources:

Konoe Fumimaro, "Against a Pacifism Centered on England and America," in *SJT*, Vol. 2, pp. 291-94.

Ishibashi Tanzan, "The Fantasy of Greater Japanism," and "Before Demanding the Abolition of Racial Discrimination," in *SJT*, Vol. 2, pp. 181-91.

Yanagi Muneyoshi, "For a Korean Architecture About To Be Lost," in *SJT*, Vol. 2, pp. 145-47.

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

PART 2: STRUCTURES OF RULE

Week 6, March 11 and 13: Economies

Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, ch. 9.

Iriye, Akira. "The Failure of Economic Expansion, 1918-31," in Silberman and Harootunian, eds., *Japan in Crisis: Essays on Taishō Democracy* (1974): 237-69.

Duus, Peter. "Economic Dimensions of Meiji Imperialism: The Case of Korea, 1895-1910," in Myers, Ramon H. and Mark R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, pp. 128-71.

Ka, Chih-ming. *Japanese Colonialism in Taiwan: Land tenure and development and dependency, 1895-1945* (1995): 49-93.

Yang, Daqing. "Japanese Colonial Infrastructure in Northeast Asia: Realities, Fantasies, Legacies," in Armstrong, ed., *Korea at the Center: Dynamics of Regionalism in Northeast Asia* (2006): 92-109.

Week 7, March 18 and 20: Ideologies

Eskildsen, Robert. "Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan's 1874 Expedition to Taiwan," *AHR* Vol. 107, No. 2 (April 2002): 388-418.

“The Rise of Revolutionary Nationalism,” in *SJT*, Vol. 2, pp. 260-65.

Shin, Jiweon. “Social construction of idealized images of women in colonial Korea: the ‘New Woman’ versus ‘Motherhood,’” in Duara, *Decolonization*, pp. 239-52.

Low, Morris. “The Japanese Colonial Eye: Science, Exploration, and Empire,” in Pinney and Peterson, eds., *Photography's Other Histories* (2003): 100-118.

Spring Break

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

Kim, Eugene C. “Education in Korea under Japanese Colonial Rule,” in Nahm, ed. *Korea under Japanese Colonial Rule*, pp. 137-46.

Tsurumi, Patricia. “Colonial Education in Korea and Taiwan,” in Myers, Ramon H. and Mark R. Peattie, eds. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, pp. 275-311.

Komagome, Takeshi. “Japanese Colonial Rule and Modernity: Successive layers of violence,” in Morris and deBary, eds., *‘Race’ Panic and the Memory of Migration* (2006): 207-258.

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

Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword*. Part 2.

PART 3: EMPIRE DURING WARTIME

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

Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, ch. 12.

Young, Louise. *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (1998): 3-115.

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

Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism*, chs. 13-14.

Koschmann, Victor “Constructing Destiny: Rōyama Masamichi and Asian Regionalism in Wartime Japan,” *Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History: Colonialism, Regionalism and Borders* (2007).

Young, *Japan's Total Empire*, ch. 8.

Week 12, April 29 and May 1: Colonial Modernity?

Barlow, Tani E. "Introduction on 'Colonial Modernity,'" in Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity in East Asia* (1997): 1-20.

Komagome Takeshi, "Colonial Modernity for an Elite Taiwanese, Lim Bo-seng: The Labyrinth of Cosmopolitanism," in *Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945*, pp. 141-159.

Robinson, Michael E. "Broadcasting, Cultural Hegemony and Colonial Modernity in Korea, 1924-1945," in Shin and Robinson, eds., *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (1999): 52-69.

***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.

Chi, Robert. "Getting It On Film: Representing and Understanding History in A City of Sadness," *Tamkang Review* 29.4 (Summer 1999): 47-84.

Choi, Chung-Moo. "The Discourse of Decolonization and Popular Memory: South Korea" in Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity in East Asia* (1997): 349-72.

Iwabuchi, Kōichi. *Recentering Globalization: Popular Culture and Japanese Transnationalism* (2002): "Introduction: The 1990s -- Japan returns to Asia in the Age of Globalization," pp. 23-50.

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