This course explores the history of China’s Northeast (“Manchuria”) as a site for challenging the boundaries imposed by histories of the nation-state. The histories of Japan, the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia will be interwoven to examine the region’s transformation from sparsely populated Manchu homeland, to staging ground for Japanese imperialism, to scene of Mao Zedong’s triumph over the Nationalists in the Chinese Civil War of 1945-49.

Goals and Expectations: The purpose of this course is twofold. In addition to charting the history of China’s Northeast over three centuries, students are encouraged to develop an understanding of how history is written—from both ideological and practical standpoints. To this end, weekly readings combine primary and secondary source materials. Careful attention to argumentation and evidence will form the basis of weekly class discussion and critique. To advance understanding of how history is written in a practical sense, students will prepare a research paper (using both primary and secondary source materials) to be submitted at the end of the semester.

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


All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Assessment: The course grade will be based on the following:
- Oral Presentations (2): 15% each
- Final Paper: 35%
- Class participation: 35%

Oral Presentations: Students will make two presentations over the course of the semester on assigned readings.

Each presentation should last no more than 10-15 minutes during which time the presenter should formulate two or three key questions about the general topic and common readings assigned for that week. Presenters for any given week are encouraged
to meet with one another in advance of class time to discuss common themes with a view toward integrating such themes into class discussion.

**Final Paper:** Students will write a final research paper of between 15 and 20 pages. Papers are due at **4 PM on Friday, December 12.**

An Information Literacy Session hosted by Librarian Xi Chen will be held at Mudd Library on Tues. Nov. 11 during class-time.

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Discussions are a central component of the course, and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to complete the assigned readings and come prepared for active engagement with the material.

**Film Screening:** Bernardo Bertolucci’s “The Last Emperor” will be screened on **Monday, Nov. 3 at 7pm** (location: TBA). The DVD will also be available on library reserve if you cannot make the screening. It will be discussed in class in conjunction with the readings for the week.

**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.

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

**OFFICE HOURS:** Students are encouraged to come see the instructor with questions about any aspect of the course:

Monday 2:30 – 4pm and Thurs. 1-2:30pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
E-mail: Emer.ODwyer@oberlin.edu
PART I: FRAMEWORKS

Week 1, Sept. 2: Introduction
Maps, Timelines, and Course Overview

Week 2, Sept. 9: Transnational History and “Manchuria”
AHR Conversation “On Transnational History” (with the participation of C.A. Bayly, Sven Beckert, Matthew Connelly, Isabel Hofmeyr, Wendy Kozol, and Patricia Seed). AHR 111, 5 (December 2006): 1441-64.


Week 3, Sept. 16: Imperialism(s), Defined


PART II: HISTORIES

Week 4, Sept. 23: (Qing China) Manchuria under the Manchus, 1600-1911

Presenters:
Christie, Dugald. Thirty years in Moukden, 1883-1913, being the experiences and recollections of Dugald Christie. Ed. by his wife (1914): 4-20; 83-98; 109-115; 123-183.


**Week 5, Sept. 30 (Imperial and Soviet Russia) The Russian Far East**


**Week 6, Oct. 7: (Japan) Railway Imperialism and the South Manchurian Railway Company (Mantetsu)**


**Presenters:**  


**Week 7, Oct. 14: (Republic of China) Manchuria of the Warlords**


**Presenters:**


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**Fall Recess**

**PART III: MILITARY CONQUEST AND WARTIME IMPERIALISM, 1931-45**

**Week 8, Oct. 28: The Manchurian Incident: A Military Solution**


**Primary Source:** Hergé (Remi Georges). *The Adventures of Tintin: The Blue Lotus* (1936).

**Presenters:**


*Reminder: Screening of *The Last Emperor* at 7pm on Monday, Nov. 3.

**Week 9, Nov. 4: Manchukuo**

**Week 10, Nov. 11: Manzhouguo, Part 2**
Young, *Japan’s Total Empire*: 352-436.

Information Literacy Session, Mudd Library.

**Week 11, Nov. 18: Economic Consolidation and Continued Military Expansion**


Primary Source:

**Part IV: Bearing Witness**

**Week 12, Nov. 25: Writing Manchuria**


Primary Source:

PART V: POSTWAR AND CIVIL WAR

Week 13, Dec. 2: Decolonization, Chinese Civil War, and Korean War


Week 14, Dec. 9: Presentation of Individual Research Topics
Students will present their research topic before seminar members, explain the question(s) guiding the research, and distribute an annotated bibliography of major primary and secondary sources.