

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science

**HISTORY AND THEORY:
Comparative Imperialisms**
History 703

Spring 2006
Wednesdays 1:20-3:20
5245 Humanities Building

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Course Description

This course will explore the nature of modern imperialism. We will examine this complex phenomenon from a number of methodological and comparative historical perspectives. The course will begin with a series of provocative and influential theoretical readings, followed by an intensive focus on the history of Japanese and American imperialism – two imperial “latecomers” – in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The course will seek to accomplish four primary aims, among others. First, we will develop a firm and critical grounding in some of the most influential theoretical perspectives on the study of imperialism. Second, we will historicize these theories by examining different empirical approaches to the study of imperialism. Third, we will focus on Japan and the United States for the sake of building historical expertise in these crucial cases. Fourth, we will use our deep knowledge of the Japanese and U.S. cases to contemplate how one might study imperialism in other chronological and geographical contexts. In the end, we will analyze the phenomenon of imperialism as comparative international history.

Weekly Response Essays

Each week by 4:PM on the Tuesday before class, all students should send a short response essay to the course email list. This response essay should include 3 basic paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize the key arguments in the readings and their significance. The second paragraph should analyze how the week’s readings relate to other course and outside texts. The third paragraph should offer the student’s critical assessment of the week’s readings: What was most persuasive? What was least persuasive? Which are the issues and questions that need more attention? What kind of new research do the readings inspire?

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

During the first half of the semester each students should, in consultation with the professors, choose a topic “case study” for further research. Students can examine a theoretical or empirical topic raised in the course (e.g. Orientalism or the occupation of Japan). They can also examine a related theoretical or empirical topic, especially topics from other regions of the world, not addressed in the course.

On March 22 students should submit an annotated bibliography on their chosen case study. The annotated bibliography should include at least seven substantial secondary sources, and at least two primary sources. The annotated bibliography should offer one paragraph describing each source, and its relevance for the historical case study. Please bring these annotated bibliographies to class in hard copy.

Case Study Paper, Final Assignment

On May 3, each student should submit a polished, footnoted, and analytical research paper on his/her chosen case study. The papers should provide a rigorously defended argument about an important theoretical and/or empirical question in the historical study of imperialism. The papers should draw deeply on the annotated bibliographies submitted and critiqued earlier in the course. The papers should cover 15-17 pages. Please bring these final case study papers to class in hard copy.

Book List

(Books available at the University Bookstore)

- Bradley, Mark. *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000).
- Cannadine, David. *Ornamentalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- Cumings, Bruce. *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations* (Duke: Duke University Press, 2002).
- Dower, John. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000).
- Duara, Prasenjit. *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).
- Eisenberg, Carolyn. *Drawing the Line: The American Decision to Divide Germany, 1944-1949* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- Iriye, Akira. *After Imperialism: The Search for a New Order in the Far East, 1921-1931* (New York: Imprint Publications, 1990, originally published in 1965).
- Kirks, Nicholas B. ed., *Colonialism and Culture* (University of Michigan Press, 1995).
- Mackenzie, John M. ed., *Imperialism and Popular Culture* (Manchester, England: University of Manchester Press, 1986).
- Mommsen, Wolfgang. *Theories of Imperialism*, trans., P.S. Falla (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982).
- Ninkovich, Frank. *The United States and Imperialism* (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2001).
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979).
- Westad, Odd Arne. *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Williams, William Appleman, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1972, originally published in 1959).

Readings with ** are part of the course pack available through the Humanities Copy Center.

Course Schedule

- 1/18 Introduction and overview
- 1/25 Classical Theories of Imperialism
Wolfgang Mommsen, *Theories of Imperialism*, trans., P.S. Falla (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), all.
- 2/1 The Imperialism of Free Trade and its Critics
**William Roger Louis, ed., *Imperialism: The Robinson and Gallagher Controversy* (New York: New Viewpoints, 1976), 53-151, 173-95, 222-28.
- 2/8 Orientalism and its Critics
Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979), 1-199;
David Cannadine, *Ornamentalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), xiii-179.
- 2/15 The Cultural Turn
John M. Mackenzie, ed., *Imperialism and Popular Culture* (Manchester, England: University of Manchester Press, 1986), 1-48, 113-191, 232-256;
Nicholas B. Kirks, ed., *Colonialism and Culture* (University of Michigan Press, 1995), 1-26, 209-245, 289-352.
- 2/22 Diplomacy, Economics, and Empire: Japan
**Ramon Myers and Mark Peattie, eds., *Japan's Colonial Empire, 1895-1945* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987), 3-60, 80-171;
**Peter Duus, Ramon H. Myers, and Mark R. Peattie, *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937* (Princeton University Press, 1989), xi-xxix, 65-100, 166-209, 395-428.
- 3/1 Diplomacy, Economics, and Empire: The United States
William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1972, originally published in 1959), all.
- 3/8 Internationalism and Imperialism: Japan
Akira Iriye, *After Imperialism: The Search for a New Order in the Far East, 1921-1931* (New York: Imprint Publications, 1990, originally published in 1965), all.
- 3/15 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

- 3/22 Internationalism and Imperialism: The United States
 Frank Ninkovich, *The United States and Imperialism* (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2001), all;
 **Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease introductions to Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease, eds., *Cultures of United States Imperialism* (Duke: Duke University Press, 1993), 3-37.
Annotated Bibliographies due in class.
- 3/29 Imperial “Frontiers:” Japan
 **Mariko Tamanoi, ed., *Crossed Histories: Manchuria in the Age of Empire* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005), 1-52, 82-149, 184-206;
 Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), 1-129.
- 4/5 Imperial “Frontiers:” The United States
 Mark Bradley, *Imagining Vietnam and America: The Making of Postcolonial Vietnam, 1919-1950* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), all.
- 4/12 The U.S. Occupation of Japan
 John Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000), 87-202, 277-404, 443-508.
- 4/19 The U.S. Occupation of Western Europe
 Carolyn Eisenberg, *Drawing the Line: The American Decision to Divide Germany, 1944-1949* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 1-232, 363-410;
 Geir Lundestad, “Empire by Invitation? The United States and Western Europe, 1945-1952,” *Journal of Peace Research* 23 (September 1986), 263-277, available through MADCAT, Electronic Journals.
- 4/26 Imperialism and the Cold War: East Asia
 Bruce Cumings, *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations* (Duke: Duke University Press, 2002), all.
- 5/3 Imperialism and the Cold War: A Global Perspective
 Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), chapters 1-4, 6-8.
Case Study papers due in class.